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KEIR RADNEDGE in Rome

WORLD CUP HERO FACES WEMBLEY KO

LOTHAR MATTHAUS, last year's World Cup-winning captain and multi award-holder, is in danger of missing Germany's prestigious Wembley friendly against England on September 11.

The Internazionale midfielder has been the subject of intense summer speculation in Italy after knee trouble forced him to cut short-pre-season training.

Matthaus was voted World Player of the Year by World Soccer's readers last December and was subsequently honoured as European Footballer of the Year and with a host of other prizes.

Surgery

After the end of last season, when Inter finished third in the championship but won the UEFA Cup, Matthaus underwent knee surgery for what was considered a minor problem.

He was fit enough to resume pre-season training with his Inter team-mates. But in Inter's first warm-up, against Mantova at the start of August, he took a blow on the knee which quickly swelled.

Matthaus was then obliged - it was in the contract - to play in Inter's pre-season visit to Stuttgart when he should have been resting.

The swelling, of course, increased.

A course of injections reduced the swelling but not enough prevent Matthaus returning to Germany to consult the Munich knee specialist, Muller Wohlfahrt. He and Inter's own experts apparently agreed that the problem was 'merely' strained ligaments and the only medicine was rest.

Matthaus insisted he would be fit for the start of the Italian league campaign on September 1, when Inter are home to Foggia. Not all his team-mates shared his confidence.

Even if he does make the season's opener, the prospects of Inter allowing him to turn out at Wembley are remote: one week later, after all, they open their UEFA Cup defence against Boavista of Portugal.

POLITICAL CRISES THREATEN EUROPEAN CUP CHAOS

THE political tragedies tearing apart the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia will, almost inevitably, produce sporting repercussions.

Any prolonged outbreak of civil unrest would lead FIFA to invoke its 'war zones' regulations banning formal international matches in those countries.

European club and European championship matches would be affected.

European club events are risk:

Champions' Cup: Kiev v HJK Helsinki; Red Star v Portadown. Cup-winners' Cup: CSKA Moscow v Roma; Tottenham or Stockerau v Hajduk Split. UEFA Cup: Moscow Spartak v MP Mikkeli, VAC Izzo v Moscow Dynamo, Halle v Moscow Torpedo; HASK-Gradjanski v Trabzonspor, Gijon v Partizan Belgrade.

In the European championship, both the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia are favourites to reach the finals in Sweden next year from groups three and four respectively.

The Soviets are due to host home matches against Hungary (September 25) and Italy (October 12).

They also visit Cyprus in November. Yugoslavia are more fortunate. Ivica Osim's men have already completed their home match schedule and need just two points from their trips to play the Faroes (in Landskrona, Sweden, on October 16) and Austria (on November 13).

AMERICANS' WINNING WAYS

THE United States national teams are bouncing from success to success.

First came victory in the CONCACAF Gold Cup, then success at the Panamerican Games, where the US beat Mexico after extra time in the final.

At press time, the juniors had reached the quarter-finals of the World Under-17 championship in Italy. Their progress included 1-0 victories over hosts Italy and over Argentina. ENTENTE CORDIALE...ENGLAND are apparently ready to drop their claim on the 1998 World Cup finals and support the French candidature...if France back England's bid to stage the 1996 European championship.

BRAZIL NEED NEW BOSS FOR WALES TRIP

BRAZIL will face Wales in Cardiff on September 11 under new management. Coach Paulo Roberto Falcao has been dismissed in the wake of other personnel changes following Brazil's 'failure' in the South American championships in Chile.

Runners-up

Brazil, who flew to Chile as defending title-holders, finished runners-up to Argentina. The last straw for Falcao was apparently the CBF's replacement of his own choices as team physio and press spokesman.

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Pancev's European Cup penalty shoot-out winner

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WORLD SOCCER CAMPAIGN

TIME TO KILL THE

OPINON BY EDITOR KEIR RADNEDGE

THE PENALTY shoot-out is killing soccer. FIFA must act before the ethos of the game is destroyed.

Every major international event now includes a Fair Play trophy. But the game is not being fair to itself. The penalty shoot-out is an UNFAIR means of resolving a match.

Soccer in the 1980s was scarred with the shoot-out. At first it was a novel idea. Dramatic matches at the highest level were imbued with extra, nerve-jangling drama. But by the time of the 1986 World Cup finals, in Mexico, it was becoming clear that the shoot-out was a disaster.

No fewer than THREE of the four quarter-finals in Mexico were decided on penalties: Belgium's victory over Spain, West Germany's defeat of hosts Mexico and France's disposal of Brazil. The Brazilians' defeat was the cruellest. Not that France did not deserve a place in the semi-finals: rather that Brazil did not deserve to be beaten in a lottery.

As we demonstrate here and on the following two pages, the shoot-out has come to dominate and distort the game's prizes. Major international competitions and a string of domestic cup finals already, this year, have been settled from the spot.

The depths to which this has brought the game were plain for all to see in the Champions' Cup Final in Bari. Red Star Belgrade betrayed their own great soccer heritage by "playing" — though that's hardly the word — the entire evening with one eye on the shoot-out.

Culprit

After all, they were comparative experts in the technique, thanks to the Slav league's system of resolving points distribution at the end of drawn matches. But Red Star coach Ljubomir Petrovic is not a prime culprit. He was a professional, paid to obtain results for Red Star. He exploited the system to do just that. He wasn't cheating. Far from it. He was playing strictly to the rules. Just like Carlos Bilardo's Argentina at the World Cup last year.

Unfortunately, the cancer of the shoot-out has forced a greater and greater gap between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law.

This, even more damaging than any match-by-match "fair play" aspect, is where soccer is being corrupted by the shoot-out.

Association football, at its best, is a free-flowing sport which provides the ultimate amalgam of teamwork and individuality. Those qualities are best expressed when supported by a positive attitude which reaches its climax in goal-scoring.

The game was designed so that teams would go forward, rather than backward. That is WHY soccer graduated from amateur enjoyment to professional entertainment.

Now it is sliding towards professional suicide.

Our friends within FIFA, the International Board, UEFA and the other confederations should NOT read this tract as criticism of their efforts to balance the entertainment, competitive and commercial demands of the game.

Clearly, some method of resolving drawn matches is imperative: the strict scheduling needs of a World Cup or European championship demand it.

The shoot-out appeared a good idea and was worth trying.

Now, after a decade, it can be seen as a failure. It does not respond to the spirit of the game or the aspirations of those who play and watch it.

At the last World Cup finals, FIFA announced the formation of a committee of high-profile officials, managers and players to present a vision of the game in the next century. That committee, lacking any representation from fans' organisations — of which there are an increasing number worldwide — was flawed.

We also suspected it was set up partly to head off the more extremist North American demands for wholesale butchering of the laws ahead of the 1994 World Cup.

The agony of the shoot-out is one specific issue which the 2000 committee might address - rather than the plethora of insignificant items of which one hears occasional leaks.

Consider the fate of the 1994 World Cup. This is being used as a unique one-off promotion for soccer in the United States. But will the product on show be "proper" soccer or will it be a corrupted version dominated by the successors to shoot-out gamblers such as Bilardo and Petrovic?

The enormous danger - the awful threat - is that the audience, inquisitive and generally unsophisticated (in soccer terms), will thrill more to the shoot-out than to the soccer, to the thrill of the kill rather than the style and the skill.

Criticism

We at World Soccer do not believe that major world events are the correct places for experimentation with the laws and regulations. Why should the under-17s, for example, be guinea pigs for the professionals?

But, if FIFA believes such occasions should be the game's laboratories, then replacing the shoot-out should have taken priority rather than the other matters covered in these pages last month, in our event preview.

Simple criticism is easy. Constructive criticism is another matter entirely.

We believe there is an alternative to the shoot-out which at the least, should be given equal opportunity through the 1990s.

THE WAITING GAME

BY JOHN KELLY

IN the last five months alone the finals of five major competitions have been decided on penalties.

The Champions' Cup Final in Bari last May was won by Red Star Belgrade, who beat Marseille 5-3 after a hugely disappointing game. Manuel Amoros, one of France's most experienced players with over 70 caps, stepped forward to take Marseille's first penalty and missed - Red Star never looked back and converted all five of their attempts.

In June the Scania 100 Tournament, a European Championship "dress rehearsal" involving Sweden, Denmark, Italy and the Soviet Union, was also decided on penalties. Italy and the Soviet Union drew 1-1 in the final with the Italians winning the shoot-out 3-2. Shalimov, Kulkov and Mostovoi all missed for the Soviets, while Baresi, De Agostini and Vierchowod were successful for the Italians.

Later that same month the World Youth Championship in Portugal also got involved.in shoot-out fever. In the quarter-finals Australia beat Syria 5-4 after a 1-1 draw, Aussie keeper Mark Bosnich saving twice and being beaten by a third which went in off a post. Australia were then involved in a shoot-out in the third place play-off against the Soviet Union. This time though Bosnich could not repeat the trick and the Soviets won 5-4.

The final between Portugal and Brazil in front of 130,000 fans in Lisbon produced no goals so penalties were again needed. The Portuguese youngsters held their nerve and triumphed 4-2, Costa scoring the decider.

Chaotic

Then in July the United States won the CONCACAF Gold Cup on penalties, after a 0-0 draw with Honduras in the final in Los Angeles. The penalty shoot-out was chaotic with 16 kicks needed to separate the two sides. Fernando Clavijo scored the winner, but goalkeeper Tony Meola was the hero for the Americans, saving three times.

At the end of July the final of the World Student Games in Sheffield was also decided from the penalty spot - South Korea beating Holland 5-4 after another 0-0 draw. Detlef Le Grand was the unfortunate Dutchman to miss.

The debate over this method being used to decide drawn matches has raged for many years, but it seems (because FIFA say so) they are here to stay. This brings into question the whole idea of teams altering tactics for important matches where penalty shoot-outs are possible.

A prime example of this came in the Champions Cup Final last May. Red Star Belgrade blazed a path to the Final, playing some of the best attacking football seen in Europe for years. Marseille also played some terrific football and everybody was set for a tremendous final.

In the event, though, Red Star left Pancev alone up front, crammed the midfield and completely smothered Marseille's attack - Waddle, Pele Papin and all. Red Star managed just three (off-target) shots during 120 minutes of unbearably defensive football. Marseille could find no way through and the game ended without a goal. The Yugoslavs looked a completely different side from the one who destroyed Rangers and Dresden and Bayern.

So why the change? Was it nerves which forced Red Star's usually

effervescent players to play in such a muted way? Fear of making mistakes which could cost the side the Champions' Cup? Or was it a collective bad day? Neither - the truth behind the tactics lay with coach Ljubomir Petrovic.

Petrovic (aided and abetted by Ivica Osim) decided before the final that Red Star's defence was too shaky to cope with Marseille's expensive strike-

PENALTY SHOOT-OUT

This suggestion is NOT corner-counting. There is great support for that alternative.

But we believe it would prove, ultimately, as corruptive and manufactured as the shoot-out.

If the CONCACAF Gold Cup Final had been resolved on the corner count, rather than penalties, then Honduras would have beaten the United States.

That observation has been met in various quarters by the response: if corners had counted, then the Americans would have played it differently. That, we believe, proves our point entirely.

World Soccer's alternative is the following: when two teams are level after 90 minutes they turn round and play extra time ..... until the first goal. Who dares, wins.

This has two major advantages compared with all other ideas:

* In commercial terms it is unlikely to outrun the scheduling demands of major competitions or television time;

* In competitive terms it resolves the match entirely within the context of the game.

To World Soccer, that latter point is paramount. We believe it should be held in equal esteem by the game's law-makers.

The penalty shoot-out must go - and quickly - for the sake of soccer.

We believe we have seen the future; we believe it can work. We believe it should be put in place BEFORE the next World Cup finals begin in the United States in 1994.

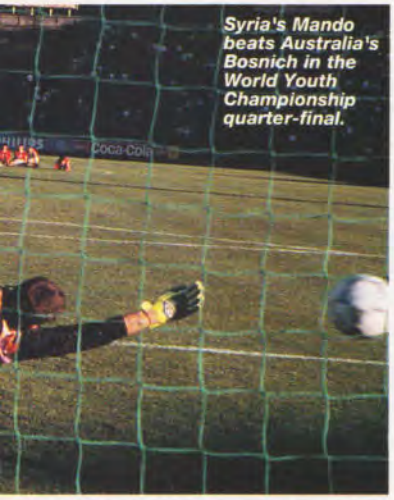
Let the greatest one-off promotion of our game, at USA'94, present the true face of soccer; not the twisted face of the shoot-out.

Red Star's Prosinecki sends Marseille keeper Olmeta the wrong way in the 1991 Champions' Cup Final.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WORLD SOCCER wants you, our worldwide readership, to have your own say on the issue.

Write to: Campaign Desk, World Soccer, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, LONDON SE1 9LS



Syria's Mando beats Australia's Bosnich in the World Youth Championship quarter-final.

force - they had wavered badly against Bayern in the semi-final. So Petrovic ordered his side to defend in depth and play for a draw, thus taking the tie to penalties where his side would have a better than even chance of victory.

"We realised we could not really beat Marseille unless they made a mistake," said Petrovic, "so I told my players to hold out for penalties.

"For most of the second half and in extra time we were deliberately waiting for penalties. We practised penalties a lot in our closed training sessions, and it paid off. We were better only at penalties. But it's the win that counts in the end."

Result? A 0-0 draw, with the Yugoslavs winning 5-3 on penalties. It should also be noted that in Yugoslavia, domestic league matches which finish level are decided on penalties. Red Star won four out of six shoot-outs in the Yugoslav league last season on their way to retaining the Championship. Red Star practice regularly as part of their normal training routine, giving them a clear advantage once extra time had elapsed in Bari.

Petrovic and his side were blasted by the World's football press for their negative performance. But are we right to criticise? Red Star merely made use of their strengths. They played well within the rules (there is no law which says teams must attack) and, if anything, cleverly used these rules to their advantage.

Petrovic said: "We did not invent the rules. They include penalties and invite the use of tactics to reach the shoot-out stage."

Perhaps, then, we should blame the rules rather than Red Star's tactics for the appallingly dull match last May. The rules encourage teams to "wait" for penalties, they encourage teams to use defensive tactics and, in their present form, cause a serious threat to football at the very highest levels.

As long as the shoot-out exists, teams will be encouraged to play more defensively in the hope of a victory on penalties. To many observers, it looked suspiciously likely that Argentina were using the same tactics in the last World Cup finals, especially against the Italians, who were strongly favoured to beat them.

Are we witnessing major changes in the way the game is played at the top? Are new tactics being devised which will reduce football to a sport dominated by penalties?

Common

Certainly the shoot-out is becoming more common - at club as well as international level. Last season, the domestic cup finals in Albania, Denmark, Iceland and West Germany were all decided on penalties.

Even in England, the penalty shoot-out is about to become a fact of life, albeit a fact largely overlooked by the English press.

Back in March, the FA decided that shoot-out would be used to decide drawn replays from this season onwards. This, the first major change in 120 years of FA Cup football, was instigated by the police, not the FA.

Police chiefs, worried about the difficulty of policing big replays at short notice, recommended that shoot-outs should be used and that replays should be scheduled 10 days after the original tie instead of the usual three or four.

Yet this important decision was hardly mentioned in the British press or among British football circles. Terry Venables, Tottenham's new managing director, was one of the very few to comment, saying: "I understand there can be problems, but if we start tampering with the rules how far do we go? Will we eventually have to call off all big matches because they can't be policed?"

Venables also suggested a possible way round this problem. Private security firms could be hired to add to the police presence at major matches, with the home side footing the bill.

That is one avenue still to be explored. Meanwhile, we could yet see an FA Cup Final decided on penalties. Unthinkable, but now possible. Equally unthinkable, though far more possible, is the prospect of teams in the FA Cup deliberately "waiting" for penalties. We almost certainly will see teams from the lower divisions and outside the league defending in depth against bigger clubs, hoping to force a draw and win on penalties. FA Cup "giant-killings" could become more and more common.

Once a game reaches the shoot-out

Continued over

BAN THE PENALTY SHOOT-OUT CAMPAIGN

EUROPEAN CLUB MATCHES ON PENS

YEAR	A	B	C	D
70-71	1	2	2	5
71-72	1	2	1	4
72-73	0	0	1	1
73-74	2	0	2	4
74-75	0	4	3	7
75-76	1	1	2	4
76-77	0	0	2	2
77-78	2	4	3	9
78-79	1	1	1	3
79-80	0	1	0	1
80-81	0	0	2	2
81-82	0	2	1	3
82-83	0	0	1	1
83-84	1	0	3	4
84-85	2	0	4	6
85-86	2	0	2	4
86-87	1	2	2	5
87-88	1	1	3	5
88-89	1	1	1	3
89-90	0	1	0	1
90-91	3	1	4	8
	19	23	40	82

KEY:
A= Champions' Cup,
B= Cup-winners' Cup,
C= UEFA Cup,
D= Total.

EUROPEAN CLUB MATCHES BY COUNTRY

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Italy	16	8	6	10	6	3	7
Spain	16	10	9	7	3	6	7
East Germany	15	7	11	4	4	7	4
Yugoslavia	14	6	8	6	3	5	6
England	11	10	5	6	2	1	8
Soviet Union	10	6	4	6	3	3	4
Portugal	8	6	4	4	2	2	4
Hungary	7	7	6	1	1	2	4
West Germany	7	6	5	2	2	1	4
Belgium	6	4	2	4	0	1	5
France	6	4	3	3	2	2	2
Holland	6	4	2	4	2	0	4
Sweden	6	4	2	4	4	1	1
Czechoslovakia	5	4	3	2	1	1	3
Poland	5	5	3	2	0	2	3
Romania	5	3	3	2	1	1	3
Greece	4	2	1	3	0	1	3
Scotland	4	3	0	4	2	1	1
Switzerland	4	3	1	3	0	2	2
Austria	3	2	2	1	0	2	1
Denmark	3	2	1	2	0	1	2
Bulgaria	2	2	1	1	0	0	2
Wales	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
TOTALS	82	109	82	82	19	23	40

KEY: A= Number of matches, B= number of teams involved, C= wins, D= defeats, E= Champions' Cup F= Cup-winners' Cup, G= UEFA Cup.

1991 Champions' Cup Final.

1984 Champions' Cup final.

LAST SEASON IN EUROPE

Rnd	Teams	1st	2nd	Pens
CHAMPIONS' CUP				
2nd	Malmo v Dynamo Dresden	1-1	1-1	4-5
2nd	Moscow Spartak v Napoli	0-0	0-0	5-3
F	Red Star Belgrade v Marseille	0 - 0		5-3
CUP-WINNERS' CUP				
1st	Neuchatel Xamax v Estrela Amadora	1-1	1-1	3-4
UEFA CUP				
1st	PAOK v Sevilla	0-0	0-0	3-4
2nd	Partizan Belgrade v Real Sociedad	1-0	0-1	5-4
3rd	Bologna v Admira-Wacker	3-0	0-3	6-5
Q/F	Moscow Torpedo v Brondby	1-0	0-1	2-4

WORLD CUP FINALS MATCHES

DATE	RND	TEAMS	PENS
1982	Q/F	West Germany 3 v 3 France	5-4
1986	Q/F	Brazil 1 v 1 France	3-4
1986	Q/F	West Germany 0 v 0 Mexico	4-1
1986	Q/F	Spain 1 v 1 Belgium	4-5
1990	2nd	Rep of Ireland 0 v 0 Romania	5-4
1990	Q/F	Argentina 0 v 0 Yugoslavia	3-2
1990	S/F	Argentina 1 v 1 Italy	4-3
1990	S/F	West Germany 1 v 1 England	4-3

OTHER WORLD EVENTS

AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP

1980	S/F	Egypt 2 v 2 Algeria	2-4
1984	S/F	Nigeria 2 v 2 Egypt	8-7
1984	S/F	Cameroon 0 v 0 Algeria	5-4
1986	F	Egypt 0 v 0 Cameroon	5-4
1988	S/F	Nigeria 1 v 1 Algeria	9-8
1988	3/4	Morocco 1 v 1 Algeria	3-4

CONCACAF GOLD CUP

1991	F	United States 1 v 1 Honduras	4-3

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

1987	Q/F	West Germany 1 v 1 Scotland	4-3
1987	3/4	East Germany 1 v 1 Chile	3-1
1987	F	Yugoslavia 1 v 1 West Germany	5-4
1989	Q/F	Soviet Union 4 v 4 Nigeria	3-5
1991	Q/F	Australia 1 v 1 Syria	5-4
1991	3/4	Australia 1 v 1 Soviet Union	4-5
1991	F	Portugal 0 v 0 Brazil	4-2

WORLD CLUB CUP

1985	F	Juventus 2 v 2 Argentinos Juniors	4-2
1988	F	Nacional 2 v 2 PSV Eindhoven	7-6

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS' CUP

1976	F	Mouloudia v Hafia 0-3, 3-0	4-1
1979	F	Union Douala v Hearts Of Oak 0-1, 1-0	5-3
1986	F	Zamalek v Africa Sports 2-0, 0-2	4-2
1989	F	Raja Casablanca v Mouloudia 1-0, 0-1	4-2

AFRICAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP

1984	F	Al Ahly v Canon 1-0, 0-1	4-2

LIBERTADORES CUP

1977	F	Boca Juniors 0 v 0 Cruzeiro	5-4
1989	F	Nacional v Olimpia 0-2, 2-0	5-4

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS MATCHES

1976	F	Czechoslovakia 2 v 2 West Germany	5-3
1980	3/4	Italy 1 v 1 Czechoslovakia	8-9
1984	S/F	Denmark 1 v 1 Spain	5-4

EUROPEAN CLUB FINALS

DATE	CUP	TEAMS	PENS
1980	CWC	Valencia 0 v 0 Arsenal	5-4
1984	CC	AS Roma 1 v 1 Liverpool	2-4
1984	UEFA	Anderlecht v Tottenham 1-1, 1-1	3-4
1986	CC	Steaua Bucharest 0 v 0 Barcelona	2-0
1988	CC	PSV Eindhoven 0 v 0 Benfica	6-5
1988	UEFA	Bayer Leverkusen v Espanol 3-3, 3-3	3-2
1991	CC	Red Star Belgrade v Marseille	5-3

Waddle trudges away after missing the decisive penalty in the 1990 World Cup semi-final.

THE IRISHMAN'S MOTION

THE penalty itself is 100 years old this year and was invented by an Irishman, William McCrum.

McCrum was a partner in a linen factory and a very keen sportsman. He played in goal for Milford Everton, a small club in the Irish League, and held a position in the Irish Football Association.

McCrum was tired of seeing foul play go unpunished and came up with the idea of the penalty kick, which would punish not just the individual committing the foul, but his whole team. His idea was championed by Jack Reid, a centre forward with Cliftonville and the General Secretary of the Irish FA.

So in 1890 the Irish FA decided to submit the proposal to the International Board for discussion and incorporation into the Laws of the Game. However, the proposal met with a cold response from other board members and was withdrawn, to be discussed the following year.

Changed

When the proposal became known to the public, there was a storm of protest in the press, especially in England. The English scorned the idea as being tantamount to admitting that teams would resort to ungentlemanlike methods, and mockingly called the proposal "the Irishman's motion".

However, an incident in an FA Cup match between Notts County and Stoke City that same year changed opinions in England.

Notts were leading 1-0 with just minutes left when a defender stopped a shot with his hand. Stoke were awarded a free-kick a few centimetres from the Notts goal line. The Notts goalkeeper legitimately stood directly in front of the ball and calmly blocked it. Clearly something had to be done.

So, on June 2, 1891, the International Board met at the Alexandra Hotel in Glasgow and the proposal was seconded by an English delegate.

The penalty kick was then incorporated into the Laws of the Game as Rule 13, and McCrum's ideals of fair play and gentlemanly conduct were vindicated.

PENALTY SPOTS

• Since penalty shoot-outs were introduced in 1970-71, 109 teams have been involved in some 82 ties; 19 in the Champions' Cup, 23 in the Cup-winners' Cup and 40 in the UEFA Cup.

• Marseille were the first and most recent side to lose a European tie on penalties. They lost to Spatrak Trnava in the 1970-71 Fairs Cup 1st round and they lost to Red Star Belgrade in the 1991 Champions' Cup Final in Bari.

• Barcelona hold a couple of unique records: they are the only club to have been involved in penalty shoot-outs twice in each of the three European competitions, they have been involved in more shoot-outs than any other club (six), they have won more than any other club (five) and have lost just one, the 1986 Champions' Cup Final!

• Apart from Barcelona, AS Roma are the only other side to have been involved in shoot-outs in each of the three European competitions, losing twice and winning once.

• Five teams have been involved in shoot-outs twice in the same competition in the same season. They are Dynamo Berlin, Barcelona, Dynamo Moscow, FK Austria and Hajduk Split. Indeed, Barcelona have managed the feat twice, in the 1985-86 Champions' Cup (semi-final and final) and the 1977-78 UEFA Cup (second and third round).

• Ajax and PAOK Salonika have the worst penalty shoot-out records in European competitions. They have both been involved in three, and have both lost all three.

• 1977-78 saw the highest number of penalty shoot-outs in a season with nine. Two in the Champions' Cup, four in the Cup-winners' Cup and three in the UEFA Cup. This total included two quarter-final ties and a semi-final.

• Italy and Spain lead the rankings in terms of European penalty shoot-outs involving their clubs with 16 matches each.

• Spain and England share the record for the most number of teams involved in European shoot-outs with 10 each.

Continued from previous page

stage, teams do not enter into it. At that stage it is all about individuals. This is another point worth debating.

Surely one of the most attractive aspects of football is that it is a team game. Team-work wins matches, but in a shoot-out, individuals win (or lose) matches. Is it therefore acceptable to have a team sport being decided by individuals in this way?

Even in the English Football League, the oldest in the World, the model on which virtually all others are based, penalty shoot-outs are now used. Last season, Torquay United won promotion to the Third Division with a 5-4 penalties victory over Blackpool in a promotion play-off. Blackpool's Dave Bamber missed the decisive kick - is it right that a whole team's efforts over a season should hang on one such kick?

Even pre-season friendlies are being decided on penalties these days. The third place and final of the Makita Tournament at Highbury went to penalties, Panathinaikos beating West Ham 3-2 and Sampdoria beating Arsenal 3-2 respectively.

In a tournament in Sweden, David Platt's debut for Bari was ruined by a shoot-out miss which gave Mechelen a 6-5 victory. In friendlies in Scotland during the summer, Rangers beat Coventry and Manchester United beat Aberdeen - both on penalties.

It is also worth noting that penalty shoot-outs are largely a European phenomenon. Cup knock-out competitions have little popular following in South America, so the Copa America and Copa Libertadores lean towards systems of mini-leagues — thus obviating the need for penalty shoot-outs.

On only two occaisons have Copa Libertadores finals been decided on penalties. In comparison, there have been four shoot-outs in European Champions' Cup finals.

Corrupted

With the 1994 World Cup in the United States fast approaching, FIFA are facing another problem. Under the present rules, the American television audience are going to see a corrupted version of football being played. The American television networks will no doubt claim that shoot-outs add excitement to the game, but are they right? Is this the kind of football the World wants?

Probably not, and it undermines FIFA's aim of spreading soccer worldwide. One of the main reasons for giving the 1994 finals to the US was to help develop the game in that country. But is that the sort of football we want to help develop? Boring, defensive football where teams have no desire to win the match? The Americans will be presented with a distorted view of football, which could hinder rather than help its development.

For years, football's lack of excitement and low scoring rate has been cited as one of the main reasons why the game has not gained popularity in the US.

The kind of football we will see in 1994 will not change that situation unless FIFA act now and change rules which encourage negativity.

Encouragingly though, the USA 1994 Organising Committee have asked FIFA to consider having the World Cup Final replayed in the event of a draw. The proposal will be discussed by FIFA in December, and we hope they will comply. If they do not, the outcome could be disastrous.

Picture this scenario, the World Cup Final in Los Angeles between Germany and Brazil. Level after extra-time, the match goes to penalties. The scores are level at 4-4 with Brazil having taken all their five penalties.

Andy Brehme steps up to the spot and places the ball. The stadium is in silence and then the commentator announces: "We'll be right back to this penalty after these messages from your local station!"

Alarmed? You should be. The American networks will have a field day. A shoot-out could last for half an hour! Let's just hope FIFA comply with the Organising Committee's request.

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POINTS TO PROVE

England and Germany meet again

Beckenbauer blasts home the decisive goal in 1968 to give Germany their first victory against England. Labone, Moore and Newton can only watch.

BOTH Germany and England will have a point to prove when their national teams meet in a friendly at Wembley on 11 September.

The Germans had gone 16 matches without defeat, which included winning the World Cup, when in their last outing they were rocked back 1-0 against Wales in a European Championship qualifying tie.

England have one of the best records in Europe - only two defeats in 38 matches, not including the World Cup semi-final penalty shoot-out against the Germans.

So while the visitors will be trying hard to overcome the shock of their last unsuccessful encounter with a British side, the English will hope to erase the painful memories of their exit in Italia '90.

The defeat in Cardiff was the first under manager Berti Vogts, after six games without blemish, and the first for the united all-German team. So much for the statisticians.

For the Germans the match at Wembley is the final rehearsal for the return leg against Wales, in Nuremberg on October 16.

Although the German media was highly criticial of Vogts' tactical dispositions — an ultra-defensive line-up designed to prevent a defeat, rather than to win the match — the manager was unrepentant.

"I would make the same preparations, selections and the identical tactical decisions," Vogts claimed three days after the match.

His attitude has clearly upset some of his sympathisers, and the experts who accused him of being scared because he nominated three man-markers, Jurgen Kohler, Thomas Helmer and Guido Buchwald, in addition to the attack-minded libero, Thomas Berthold.

The team indulged in a slow, unattractive, safety-first method based on possession football, to prevent the Welsh from developing their offensive. Yet even after they took command of the game, the Germans did little as an attacking unit. Worse still, their midfield lacked substance.

Captain Lothar Matthaus and the East German Matthias Sammer, operated mainly as destroyers and too little as constructors.

Craftsmen

Clearly, since the loss through injury, or on account of erratic form, of such aces as Pierre Littbarski, Andy Moller, Thomas Hassler, Uwe Bein and Olaf Thon, the Germans no longer have enough craftsmen in this vital part of their formation.

Matthaus is a leader, but not a playmaker. And his substitute in Cardiff, Thomas Doll, could not set the tone in attack that the occasion demanded.

Vogts says: "We must not lose sight of the necessity of rebuilding and development. I can't use only the world champions". He wants to create a side after his own heart, but will have to make changes for Wembley.

The position of goalkeeper for that match was apparently promised to Raimond Aumann of Bayern Munich, but there has since been a row between him and Vogts because the 'keeper was left out of the squad for Wales, following a virus infection which had weakened him.

Andreas Kopke of Nurnberg, regarded in the media as Germany's best keeper at present, could be given his chance, though Bodo Illgner is still Vogts's No.1.

The defeat by Wales was partly due to injury to Matthaus, who missed the second half, but primarily to the sending-off of libero Berthold. He was suspended for five competitive matches, and in view of the forthcoming tough ties in the European Championship he will not be considered against England.

Guido Buchwald, strong in the air though slow on the ground, is likely to be the sweeper. Or maybe another opportunity might be offered to Manfred Binz.

In defence, Helmer of Borussia Dortmund, who was the outstanding German in Cardiff and played his best international in his fifth match, will be most likely retained to mark Gary Lineker.

Assuming that the nine "legionnaires" from Italy are all released, Matthaus will be partnered in midfield by Reuter, Sammer or Doll, and Brehme.

Up front Klinsmann and Voller should keep their places: Voller is now widely regarded as the best centre-forward in Europe. "It is unbelievable what a personality Voller has developed into" says Vogts.

The third choice in attack is Karl-Heinz Riedle, of Lazio.

Matches between Germany and England are nearly always closely fought. Earlier in history the Germans, who for decades had copied the English style and approach, could not beat their mentor. Not until their ninth meeting, in 1968, did they win, with a goal by the great Franz Beckenbauer.

Since then, the Germans have lost their apprehension when facing the "motherland of football", as they say. Nine subsequent games have brought them five wins, two draws and only two defeats.

ARTHUR ROTMIL WS

Lineker (left) fires home the equaliser in the 1990 World Cup semi-final.

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RED STAR'S GOAL STAR TAKES GOLDEN BOOT

Pancev on top

DARKO PANCEV is the man with the Golden Boot. Not only was he Europe's top league marksman with 34 goals - and a total of 54 in all matches - he was the man who tucked away the decisive penalty to bring Red Star their diminished victory over Marseille in the Champions' Cup Final shoot-out.

Pancev is also a one-man inflation factor.

Early this year Italian club Fiorentina thought they would be clever and steal a march on their transfer-market rivals by agreeing, informally, to a deal with Red Star. Fiorentina told Red Star they were ready to pay up to £2million for Pancev, a nimble, swarthy centre-forward. He was, they believed, virtually signed and sealed.

Desperate

But that was before Pancev's goals lifted Red Star within reach of the Champions' Cup; that was before his second international hat-trick of the season, against Northern Ireland; that was before international giants Real Madrid and Milan turned their own sights on Pancev.

Madrid, desperate for new heroes to follow Di Stefano and the rest, saw Pancev as a possible replacement for the temperamental, acrobatic, ageing Mexican, Hugo Sanchez. They envisaged buying Pancev in a package with Red Star team-mate Robert Prosinecki.

Milan, for their part, eyed not only Pancev and Prosinecki but their Red Star and Yugoslavia team-mate, Dejan Savicevic, as well as Dinamo Zagreb's Zvonimir Boban. They were ready to replace their Dutch trio of superstars - Gullit, Van Basten and Rijkaard - en bloc with Yugoslavs.

Both those scenarios have since clouded. Madrid's interest in Pancev has gone on the back burner while they try to resolve the political impasse over Prosinecki; Milan found the domestic and Dutch fall-out over their interest in Boban as much as they could cope with at any one time.

Pancev's decisive penalty in Bari.

One thing is clear: Pancev's value has rocketed from £2million at the start of the year to at least £4million now - and maybe much more if you consider that Karl-Heinz Riedle, a West German World Cup-winning reserve last year, cost Lazio of Rome no less than £5.5million.

On that basis, Pancev could be worth at least £6million - meaning a 200 per cent price hike in a matter of months.

He has no doubt about his ability and value, and says: "Some people are born to be scientists, or great pianists or singers. It's like a gift from heaven.

"Just as the pianist and the singer develop their technique to play and to sing, so I have a gift of scoring goals and I have worked on the technique - such as shooting equally well with both feet and heading the ball to the one place where the goalkeeper does not expect.

"It's 75 per cent talent and 25 per cent hard work. But maybe I'm lucky. I know that people say I can't dribble as well as Prosinecki and I can't pass like Savicevic. But that's why we work so well together. I possess what they do not. Right now I honestly believe I am the best striker in Europe."

Pancev's story is a simple one: told as quickly as his rise to fame. He was born on September 7, 1965, and made his name with Vardar of Skopje in Macedonia, one of the awkwardly-balanced mini-nations which make up the fragmenting Yugoslav state.

At the end of his first full season with Vardar's senior team he was, at 19, crowned the League's top scorer with 19 goals. Pancev's value to Vardar was amply demonstrated by their collapse into the Second Division just two years after he left for Red Star in the summer of 1988. To Pancev then his new contract, £35,000 a year plus a flat, seemed riches indeed.

Pancev went from strength to strength. In his first season in Belgrade he scored 12 goals. Then, last year, he was League top scorer for a second time, this time with 25. Not only that, he scored the decisive only goal in Red Star's 1990 Cup Final victory over Hajduk Split.

Debut

By then Pancev, still only 24, was a six-year veteran of international football. He made his debut at 18 against Hungary but then had only three appearances in as many years before at last reproducing his club potential with the national team.

The setting was a friendly against Austria. Pancev scored twice - and followed with a further 13 goals in his next 18 matches. Two of those goals fell to Pancev at the World Cup finals in Italy last year. Having spent much of his time as deputy for experienced Zlatko Vujovic, Pancev emerged as a two-goal match-winner in the 4-1 defeat of the United Arab Emirates.

He played again in the second-round win over Spain but missed the tense, shoot-out defeat by Argentina in the quarter-finals. Now Vujovic is yesterday's man. National manager Ivica Osim sees Pancev as his long-term centre-forward and that vote of confidence appears to have made all the difference.

He is the second Yugoslav to win the Golden Boot, but the first home-based marksman. Josip Skoblar won in 1971 with 44 goals - ironically for Marseille.

Pancev says: "My hero was Gerd Muller because he, like me, took advantage of any and every opening the opposition left. He was like me: he scored goals equally well with left or right foot. You can talk for ever, but the only thing which matters is getting the ball in the net. Some people say I don't score very beautiful goals. I disagree. Every goal is beautiful."

Pancev and his wife Ana would not mind waiting another year, if politics permit, before moving. He has had several offers from Spain, Italy, Germany, Belgium and France, but ideally he wants to go to Italy - "the country of Pavarotti." And when he gets there, in the words of Pavarotti's World Cup hit, Nessun Dorma, None Shall Sleep ... in the opposing defence.

KEIR RADNEDGE WS

THE GOLDEN BOOT 1990-91

Darko PANCEV (Red Star Belgrade)	34
TANJU (Galatasaray)	31
DANEK (FC Tirol) **BOZGO** (Tomori, Alb)	29
RAKKLI (Besa, Alb)	27
ROMARIO (PSV Eindhoven) **BERGKAMP** (Ajax) **RUI AGUAS** (Benfica) **DOMINGOS** (FC Porto)	25
MOROCUTTI (US Luxenbourg) **VANDENBERGH** (Ghent) **SARAVAKOS** (Panathinaikos) **BIERHOFF** (Austria Salzburg) **PAPIN** (Marseille)	24
McBRIDE (Glenavon) **HANGANU** (Corvinul) **GOMES** (Sporting Lisbon) **SMITH** (Arsenal) **SUKER** (Dinamo Zagreb)	22
DZIUBINSKI (Wisla) **YORDANOV** (Lokomotiv G.O.) **WOHLFARTH** (Bayern Munich)	21
GUTSCHOW (Dynamo Dresden) **WEBER** (Cercle) **FURTOK** (Hamburg) **FASHANU** (Wimbledon)	20

Africa

EVERY ONE A WINNER

This could be the best tournament yet

THERE had been one of the more intriguing qualifying battles for the African Nations Cup finals, but in the end there was little in the way of surprise for the 1992 tournament in Senegal.

All 12 countries who will play in January's tournament have taken part in the final competition before, and eight of them have won the trophy.

This could ensure the best final tournament yet, with its expanded format and the move from March to January to accommodate the growing band of professionals now based in Europe.Some of the most exciting players in the world will take to Africa's showpiece stage - including Abedi Pele of Marseille and his Ghanaian compatriot, Nii Odartey Lamptey from Belgian champions Anderlecht.

Ghana were the first nation to qualify from the preliminary competition, going six matches without conceding a goal before dropping three points in their final two away matches after their trip to Senegal had been secured.

But there will certainly be stiff competition, and not only from the hosts, holders Algeria and World Cup upstarts Cameroon.

The rest of the line-up features some impressive teams, not least the Nigerians and Egyptians, who have been consistent performers at previous Nations Cup finals.

In **GROUP ONE**, Cameroon were always expected to go through to the final tournament. But they had a torrid time achieving their objective.

Against the likes of minnows Guinea, Mali and Sierre Leone, the Indomitable Lions struggled, only making sure in the final match, against Guinea in Yaounde.

World Cup hero Francois Omam-Biyik, who had been flown in from France the night before on a private jet along with goalkeeper Joseph-Antoine Bell, got the all-important goal 10 minutes into the match.

Sierre Leone finished second in the group to follow their shock defeat of Ghana in the qualifiers for the 1990 tournament, held in Algeria.

GROUP TWO also was decided on the final day, and Egypt went close to being bundled out by North African compatriots Tunisia.

They got off to a perfect start at home against Chad, with Ahmed Ramzi netting twice in a 5-1 win. Then, needing a draw against Tunisia, Egypt struggled, but in the end got the result.

The outcome of **GROUP THREE** was settled back in April, with Ivory Coast and Morocco clinching their places against unfancied Mauritania and Niger.

Zambian players celebrate their last-minute qualification.

Zimbabwe's Henry McKop

The top two finished their programme with a meeting in Abidjan, where the Ivorians won 2-0, but both sides failed to inspire.

This group did make African history, though, with Niger recording their first victory in international competition... 7-1 at home to Mauritania!

This was followed with a 1-0 win over the Moroccans, one of the biggest shocks in the Nations Cup to date.

In **GROUP FOUR** Ghana marched to a place in the finals, but left West African giants Nigeria in trouble until the end.

Nigeria, beaten finalists in the last two competitions, were floundering before their final two matches and facing the possible embarrassment of Burkina Faso beating them to the second qualification spot.

A 3-0 win over Togo in April eased some of the pressure, but when the Burkinabe upset Ghana 2-1 at home, the stage was set for a stunning finale in Lagos.

So it turned out, but it was far from close. Burkina Faso needed to win and despite going a goal down early on indicatied their intention with a quick equaliser. Then it was one-way, with the Nigerian Eagles netting six more goals - four of them from Portuguese-based striker Rashidi Yekini.

Zambia were progressing along smoothly in **GROUP FIVE** until their shock defeat in Swaziland in April, opening up an opportunity for Madagascar to qualify.

The Zambians had to win both their final games - at home to the Malagasy and against Angola. They struggled in both ties, but edged out Madagascar 2-1 and scored a last-minute winner against Angola to secure qualification.

GROUP SIX turned out to be the tightest of the qualifying contests with all three sides tied on points and goal difference. Kenya scored more goals than both Mozambique and Sudan, and therefore made a third consecutive appearance in the finals.

In **GROUP SEVEN**, Congo secured their qualification ahead of Zimbabwe in dramatic fashion.

When Zimbabwe beat Malawi 4-0 in Harare, it seemed that they would be able to stage a remarkable comeback. Their task was to secure two victories - at home to the Congolese, and away against Malawi.

Moses Chungu and Swiss-based Henry McKop set up a perfect start for the Warriors with an early goal. But Zimbabwe slipped in defence to allow Francois Makita to score.

But a touch of brilliance from new Zimbabwean starlet Peter Ndlovu (now on trial with Coventry City) put Zimbabwe back ahead after 73 minutes. And only an equaliser in injury time, from Jean-Jacques Mbemba, secured a 2-2 draw.

There was trouble in Gabon, when Zaire emerged victorious from **GROUP EIGHT**. Two people were killed in riots after a 0-0 draw between the sides in Libreville. The draw was enough for the Leopards to go through on goal difference ahead of Gabon, with Uganda a further point back.

Zaire could be a team to watch in Senegal.

MARK GLEESON ON THE AFRICAN CUP WS

LEADING GOALSCORERS

5 - Laghrissi (Morocco)
4 - Dwanye (Niger), **Yekini** (Nigeria), **Musisi** (Uganda)
3 - Ilboudo (Burkina Faso), **Makita** (Congo), **A.Ramzi** (Egypt), **Opoku** (Ghana), **Haule** (Tanzania), **Mahjoubi** (Tunisia), **Kabongo** (Zaire), **McKop** (Zimbabwe).

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALIFYING COMPETITION

PRELIMINARY RD: Mauritania - Gambia 2-0; 1-2

GROUP ONE: Cameroon 0 Mali 0, Sierre Leone 2 Guinea 1, Mali 1 Guinea 1, Sierre Leone 1 Cameroon 1, Guinea 0 Cameroon 0, Mali 0 Sierre Leone 0, Mali 0 Cameroon 2, Sierre Leone 0 Guinea 1, Cameroon 1 Sierre Leone 0, Guinea 2 Mali 1, Cameroon 1 Guinea 0, Sierre Leone 2 Mali 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	6	3	3	0	5	1	9
Sierre Leone	6	2	2	2	5	4	6
Guinea	6	2	2	2	5	5	6
Mali	6	0	3	3	2	7	3

Cameroon qualify

GROUP TWO: Egypt 2 Ethiopia 0, Tunisia 2 Chad 1, Chad 0 Egypt 0, Ethiopia 0 Tunisia 2, Tunisia 2 Egypt 2, Chad 0 Tunisia 0, Egypt 5 Chad 1, Egypt 2 Tunisia 2. Ethiopia withdrew after two games and their other opponents were awarded 2-0 victories.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt	6	3	3	0	13	5	9
Tunisia	6	3	3	0	10	5	9
Chad	6	2	2	2	6	7	6

Ethiopia withdrew. Egypt qualify

GROUP THREE (Liberia withdrew) Ivory Coast 2 Mauritania 0, Morocco 2 Niger 0, Morocco 4 Mauritania 0, Niger 0 Ivory Coast 1, Niger 7 Mauritania 1, Morocco 3 Ivory Coast 1, Mauritania withdrew v Ivory Coast, who were awarded the match 2-0, Niger 1 Morocco 0, Mauritania 0 Morocco 2, Ivory Coast 1 Niger 0, Mauritania v Niger postponed, Ivory Coast 2 Morocco 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	6	5	0	1	9	3	10
Morocco	6	4	0	2	11	4	8
Niger	5	2	0	3	8	5	4
Mauritania	5	0	0	5	1	15	0

Ivory Coast and Morocco qualify

GROUP FOUR: Burkina Faso 2 Benin 0, Nigeria 3 Togo 0, Burkina Faso 2 Togo 0, Ghana 1 Nigeria 0, Benin 0 Nigeria 1, Togo 0 Ghana 1, Benin 1 Togo 1, Ghana 2 Burkina Faso 0, Burkina Faso 1 Nigeria 1, Ghana 4 Benin 0, Benin 1 Burkina Faso 2, Togo 0 Nigeria 0, Nigeria 0 Ghana 0, Togo 1 Burkina Faso 0, Ghana 2 Togo 0, Nigeria 3 Benin 0, Burkina Faso 2 Ghana 1, Togo 2 Benin 0, Benin 0 Ghana 0, Nigeria 7 Burkina Faso 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	8	5	2	1	11	2	12
Nigeria	8	4	3	1	15	3	11
Burkina Faso	8	4	1	3	10	13	9
Togo	8	2	2	4	4	9	6
Benin	8	0	2	6	2	5	2

Ghana and Nigeria qualify.

GROUP FIVE: Angola 0 Madagascar 1, Zambia 5 Swaziland 0, Swaziland 1 Angola 1, Madagascar 0 Zambia 0, Angola 1 Zambia 2, Swaziland 0 Madagascar 1, Madagascar 0 Angola 0, Swaziland 2 Zambia 1, Angola 1 Swaziland 1, Zambia 2 Madagascar 1, Madagascar v Swaziland postponed, Zambia 1 Angola 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zambia	6	4	1	1	11	4	9
Madagascar	5	2	2	1	3	2	6
Swaziland	5	1	2	2	4	9	4
Angola	6	0	3	3	3	6	2

Zambia qualify.

GROUP SIX: (Mauritius withdrew), Sudan 1 Mozambique 0, Mozambique 2 Kenya 1, Sudan 1 Kenya 0, Mozambique 1 Sudan 0, Kenya 1 Mozambique 0, Kenya 2 Sudan 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kenya	4	2	0	2	4	4	4
Mozambique	4	2	0	2	3	3	4
Sudan	4	2	0	2	3	3	4

Kenya qualify

GROUP SEVEN: (Seychelles withdrew), Malawi 0 Congo 1, Congo 2 Zimbabwe 0, Zimbabwe 4 Malawi 0, Congo 2 Malawi 1, Zimbabwe 2 Congo 2, Malawi 2 Zimbabwe 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Congo	4	3	1	0	7	3	7
Zimbabwe	4	1	2	1	8	6	4
Malawi	4	0	2	3	3	8	1

Congo qualify.

GROUP EIGHT: Gabon 1 Uganda 0, Zaire 2 Tanzania 0, Tanzania 0 Gabon 0, Uganda 2 Zaire 1, Uganda 3 Tanzania 2, Zaire 2 Gabon 1, Tanzania 1 Zaire 0, Uganda 0 Gabon 0, Gabon 1 Tanzania 0, Zaire 1 Uganda 0, Gabon 0 Zaire 0, Tanzania 1 Uganda 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zaire	6	3	1	2	6	4	7
Gabon	6	2	3	1	3	2	7
Uganda	6	2	2	2	6	6	6
Tanzania	6	1	2	3	4	7	4

Zaire qualify

Kispest-Honved, Hungarian Champions 1990-91.

A new birth in BUDAPEST

Goal! . . . Gregor, Yancea, Kovacs and Csehi celebrate .

OLD CLUB'S FRESH START AS PART OF THE REAL SOCCER WORLD

FORZA HONVED, Forever Kispest. Kispest Nagy Foci (great football) were among the banners as well as a Union Jack, to greet Honved's team in the Bozsik Stadion on the day of the "championship fiesta". The celebration of the 12th championship title for the club of the Hungarian Army, which within days was to go back to its roots with a name change, was also the end of an era.

Honved ("defender of the nation") has fallen the way of so many subsidised concerns in all-change Hungary. The desire to break with the past, despite the club's great era of the early 1950s, was as much financial as emotional; the football section of the sports club could not successfully support the other sections. Football clubs are having to live in the real world of money.

The link between the past and the present was tangible on this brilliantly sunny June afternoon, when Honved beat MTK-VM 2-1. There on the athletics track surrounding the sward, with less of that much-photographed stomach of a decade ago than expected, was Ferenc Puskas, impeccably dressed in suit and tie, yet looking out of place.

Puskas and the late Jozsef Bozsik were players of Kispest AC when it was merged into the Army club. Friends from schooldays, they gave Honed and Hungarian football its greatest successes until 1955, when Puskas fled abroad.

Bozsik who died in 1978, stayed to play a record 100 times for his country, played all his club football with Honved, whom he later managed.

Now, with Hungarians again seeking their fortune abroad just as Puskas did, Honved have developed a nice little earner by selling players to the west.

Kispest-Honved start this season without Zsolt Petry, the national team's goalkeeper and arguably the club's most important player, who signed a three-year contract with Ghent, in Belgium, for £160,000, and Jozsef Gregor, the league's leading scorer with 15 goals, who has joined Siofok.

"Football is not easy in Hungary today and giving opinions cannot bring it back to better times." Puskas says.

Difficult

"At this moment I don't know the possibility for players to earn money abroad. It is a very difficult question for me, someone who hasn't lived here for 30 years (he is presently living in Australia but plans to return to Spain, which he regards as home).

"I don't know how they can re-establish things but I'm sure something will happen. Teams like FTC (Ferencvaros), Ujpest (UTE), MTK, can't be lost just because the money is missing. They will work something out.

"The Hungarian national team's play

Jozsef Gregor, 15 goals last season for Honved, but now with Siofok.

Honved's Csehi (red shirt) challenges Keller of Ferencvaros in an aerial duel.

is very poor. It is wrong for the federation (MLSZ) and the clubs to sell the players. Hungary needs the players here for the young boys from five years onwards who want to see them.

"There is something wrong if there is no replacement for Petry or for other good players who go abroad. You can't sell a player if you haven't another good one to put in his position.

Other countries, like Germany and Holland, don't have a problem because they have the players." The man who brought Petry to Kispest was Dr Gyorgy Mezey, recognised within the country as the best football coach/trainer. He proved it by attracting virtually a new team of players in his first year of a two-year contract and after Honved had been so close to the indignity of competing in the previous season's play-offs.

"There were three reasons why we won the championship," he said. "We have the best management among all the clubs. Mihaly Kozma is a talented manager, organiser; things went smoothly. There was always a good background, things behind the scenes were right.

"We were lucky. If you bring ten players to a club and from them five do well it is a good ratio. But we brought ten players and nine became very good players for Honved.

"So it was a little lucky but, really, we did our job well, to choose the right players. And, because the old players and the new players accepted each other we could form a very good team, with a unity of spirit.

"Third, my assistants and the doctors did their job very well too. "With the exception of one or two games, the team played to the maximum of their ability. There were only one or two injuries and these were during games, not during the training sessions."

Dangerous

Mezey regards the most influential players as Petry ("he became a truly European-class player and his performance was really very high during the season for us and also with the national team"), Andreas Caepregi ("the best sweeper in Hungary and, on his performance, he can compare with the best European sweepers"), and Gregor ("he became a truly dangerous forward and scored a lot of 'action' goals").

The manager's choice indicates the major characteristic of his team: the combination play, the players' ability to understand each other, whether defending or attacking.

"Three factors made the difference," Mezey says. "The strategy, the build-up in team work, the connection between the different departments, was very high because we practiced a lot and spoke about it a lot. "For certain games we did some special manoeuvres, which were not built into the strategy. For example, Csepregi, the sweeper.

With this team strategy, the player who played in front of Csepregi helped him a lot in his own play. "The best European teams are playing very offensive games because the physical intensity of the championship in these countries is higher than ours. We cannot expect to cope with this and equal the Arsenals and Sampdorias because the fitness of their players is higher.

"We have to change the Hungarian championship, we've got to change the motivation of the players. But this is connected with the social and political changes in Hungary."

In the most recent season Kispest-Honved employed 22 professionals under contract and four other players who also had other employment. As much as 95 per cent of the income for the football club is derived from selling players; only five per cent comes from other sources such as television rights, sponsors and match tickets.

"We have to sell three or four players to cover our expenses," Mezey says.

Among the changes is a marketing venture that Puskas is fronting, those paying for season tickets being entered into a prize draw for a two-week holiday abroad. Other schemes are afoot and Kozma senses the importance of not missing a financial trick.

Puskas, a Honved legend.

New flags in the old colours of red and black, were on sale on the final day of the season. A colour poster of the team sold well too.

Memories stirred of a decade ago, when Honved began their sequence of seven titles in ten seasons. The other five were achieved between 1949, when the Army took over Kispest AC, and 1955; so Kispest AC were never Hungarian champions.

The club were formed in August 1909, amid internal disputes, some members wanting only indoor athletics but the majority seeking to form a football team. The first match was against Monor, a town near Budapest, and the club began competitive football in the Fourth Division of the national championship. After the 1912-13 season they reached the Second Division and then attained, and kept First Division status from 1914.

They finished fourth out of 12 teams in their first season, and were second to the brilliant Jimmy Hogan-inspired MTK in the 1919-20 season.

The club fell apart during World War II but reorganised after it. Puskas and Bozsik were members now and on December 18, 1949, the club merged with Honved at a meeting in the conference room of Kispest Town Hall.

A little-known fact of that time is that Puskas was the coach of the team in the first two seasons. Later, Jeno Kalmar became manager and took them to the next three championship titles, the first (in 1952) with an unbeaten record of 21 wins and five draws.

Football was bliss then, 100 goals being scored in 26 matches in the 1954 success and 99 the next. Kalmar was in charge for these seasons too, and his effort of three titles was later matched by Imre Kormora in the mid-1980s.

Other than Puskas (two) and Mezey (one) the other managers to take Honved to the championship title were Lajos Tichy, Bertalan Bicskei and Jozsef Both.

Kalimar's team of 1955 qualified for the first season of the Champions' Cup, in 1956-57, but were beaten in the first round by Athletic Bilbao.

In six future attempts in this competition Honved teams were unable to reach the quarter-final stage. In 1980-81 they lost 8-0 on aggregate to Real Madrid, and in their most recent appearance, in the 1989-90 season, they were ousted by Benfica, whose 7-0 win in the second leg and 9-0 aggregate represented the worst defeat for a Hungarian team in Europe. The success under Kormora was tainted by the bribery scandals and suspensions of a host of players, and six points being deducted for the title success over Pecs MSC in 1986.

But now the cleansing operation is complete.

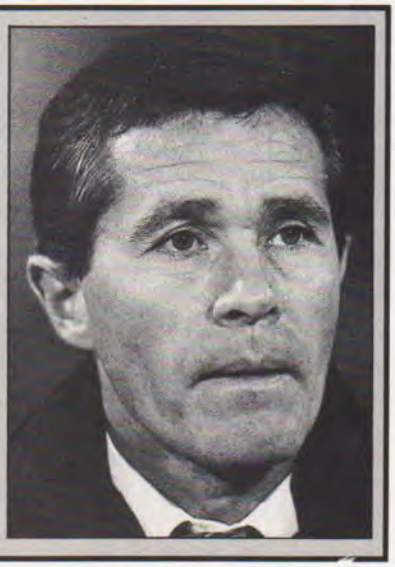
CONTINUED OVER

KISPEST-HONVED FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded: Aug 3, 1909 as Kispest Athletic Club, changed to Budapest Honved Sport Egyesulet, December 18, 1949; changed to present title, July 1, 1991.
Colours: red and black.
Stadium: Bozsik Stadion. Ujtemeto u.1-3, Budapest XIX, 1193 Hungary.
Telephone: (36) 1147-3958.
President: Tibor Szabo.
Managing Director: Mihaly Kozma.
Manager: Dr Gyorgy Mezey.
Honours: 12 Hungarian championships (1949-50, 1950-51, 1952, 1954, 1955, 1979-80, 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1990-91; 4 Hungarian Cups (1935, 1964, 1966, 1989. Mitropa (Central European) Cup 1950.

THE COACH

Dr Gyorgy MEZEY (right). Aged 50 (born September 7, 1940). Played for Rakosmenti AC, a club near Budapest's city boundary, and began coaching at Keszthely. Also studied the game and was awarded a Doctorate by the Budapest Sports University in January, having twice managed the national team. Made his name initially with MTK-VM, was assistant manager for the 1978 and 1982 World Cup finals and then guided team to the 1986 Wold Cup finals in Mexico. An early knock-out blow (6-0 defeat by the Soviet Union) shattered the team's confidence. Mezey did not renew his contract, coached the Kuwaiti national side, and later went to Finland before returning home after the death of his friend, Gabor Kaszas, the manager at Videoton-Waltham. Mezey saw out the season there and accepted a two-year contract with Kispest-Honved. This was his first Hungarian championship success.



Jozsef Bozsik, made a record 100 appearances for Hungary.

THE PLAYERS

Istvan TARLOSI. Goalkeeper. Aged 23 (born August 29, 1968). **Reserve 'keeper, did not appear in the championship last season when Zsolt Petry, now transferred to Ghent, was an ever-present. First Division debut with Tatabanya in May, 1988, and has made only two further appearances. Joined home-town club Salgotarjani BTC in 1981 and was there until 1987. Tall and strong, admires Dino Zoff.**

Istvan GULYAS. Goalkeeper. Aged 31 (born May 1, 1960). **Signed from relegated Bekescsaba after Petry was sold to Belgium. First Division debut in 1981, played for Diosgyor and Vasas before joining Bekescsaba. Nearly 200 League appearances.**

Andras CSEPREGL (above). Libero. Aged 29 (born October 27, 1969). **Joined Honved last season from Zalaegerszeg TEC, having spent seven seasons there. General of the defence, when trouble looms he can sense it and sort it out; cool, adept with both feet. Scored 23 goals in his 178 League games.**

Andras CSEHI (above). Full-back. Aged 28 (born January 15, 1963). **Twice suspended last season after collecting three cautions on each occasion. Previously at Bekescsaba.**

Jozsef CSABI. Full-back. Aged 24 (born February 14, 1967). **Capable man-marker and heads well. Played for home-town club, Szolnoki MAV-MTE from 1978 until 1987, debut for Honved in 1988, has made 71 First Division appearances and was in the squad who won the title in the 1988-89 season.**

Istvan URBANYI. Midfielder. Aged 24 (born April 17, 1967) **with three caps. Also used as a full-back. Uses his physical abilities well, has strong willpower. Joined Salgotarjani BTC when aged 11, moved to Honved in 1987, spent one season as Kispest before having two with Raba ETO. Returned to Honved for last season. 86 First Division games. Has many interests and says: "Sometimes I need things to take my attention away from football."**

Istvan PISONT. Midfielder. Aged 21 (born 16 May, 1970) **with one cap, as substitute against Argentina in Buenos Aires early this year. Joined Honved from Szarvasi Vasas Spartacus in the summer of 1989. Midfield director of the purest creative force on his best days but stamina and temperament have yet to be tested. Admires Laszlo Gyimesi and Lajos Detari, two former Honved players, and Enzo Scifo, the Belgian. Ever-present last season, four goals, 70 League appearances in total.**

Laszlo KOMODI. Midfielder. Aged 20 (born October 7, 1970). **Transferred from MTK-VM a year ago. Quick runner but not very influential on the ball.**

Janos MAROZSAN. Midfielder. Aged 26 (born May 13, 1965) **with four caps. Transferred during the season from Siofok, in exchange for Imre Fodor and Attila Kaman. Correct, orthodox, midfield worker, senses the need to defend as well as attack. 126 League appearances.**

Zoltan BOGNAR. Midfielder. Aged 26 (born June 25, 1965) **with five caps. Taken from Haladas, of Szombathely, last season. Good tackler, powerful free-kicks.**

Sandor NAGY. Midfielder. Aged 24 (born August 22, 1967), **transferred from Ferencvaros last season.**

Tibor CSEHI (above). Midfielder. Aged 28 (born March 27, 1963) **with two caps. Solid, strong, always mobile, scored eight goals in the championship success, several being from powerful free-kicks.**

Erwin KOVACS (above). Midfielder, and captain. Aged 24 (born January 27, 1967) **with 16 caps, debut when 20 years and six months old but selected only once under Kalman Meszoly. Transferred from UTE last summer and crucial to the team's success. Tall, yet balanced in tackle, uplifts team-mates with his long-striding, light-footed style. 164 League appearances.**

Istvan VINCZE. Forward. Aged 24 (born January 22, 1967), **with 21 caps (five goals). Troubled by injuries since his transfer from Tatabanya to Lecce, in Italy. Career rescued by Mezey, who had introduced him to the national team in January 1986. Still speedy but needs to develop greater sensitivity for timing his passing and dribbling. 127 League appearances.**

Viorel VANCEA. Forward. Aged 29 (born July 13, 1962). **Romanian transferred from FC Bihor to Videton-Waltham before joining Honved for last season. Scored only six goals in the championship but neat and skilful at his best when exchanging passes with fellow forwards.**

Ferenc MOLNAR. Forward. Aged 24 (born June 20, 1967). **Joined Honved for last season from Honved BEMSE after making debut in First Division in 1987 when with Stofok. 11 appearances.**

THE GENUINE ARTICLE

You can't beat the real thing, and that is just what Admiral Replica Kits are.

They feel right, look great and are the same strip you see your team wearing every Saturday afternoon.

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SPOTLIGHT ON • DEAN SAUNDERS

Law man

Rule change helps Saunders to

ONE small change in the laws of soccer helped turn Dean Saunders from one of the liveliest strikers in the English Football League into one of the most coveted in Europe.

That change was effected just over a year ago, by the International Board which governs the soccer rulebook, concerning the offside law.

For 65 years a defender needed two players between him and the opposing goal. Now, put simply, the attacking player could be in line with the second defender.

For most players that has meant little change. Referees and linesmen, with so little time in which to make a judgment, usually give the benefit of a halting whistle or flag to the defence. But not always. And watching Saunders is to watch one of those few players whose aggression and eye for goal has been rewarded by the change.

Like England's Gary Lineker, Wales international Saunders is blessed with remarkable initial acceleration. The rule amendment "gave" him an extra half a yard, a decisive difference in competing for a through pass or cross.

Even though Derby were relegated last term, Saunders ended up with a best-ever 21 goals from the campaign.

The final whistle had hardly blown on last term before Derby's owner, the publisher Robert Maxwell, was inviting bids for both Saunders and England centre-back Mark Wright. Half a dozen clubs submitted written offers and, when the envelopes had all fluttered into the Baseball Ground, Everton had emerged as clear favourites.

The price offered was rumoured to be £2.8million. That was fine with Derby. But Saunders delayed a decision. Everton boss Howard Kendall grew impatient — and worried. Before flying off on a pre-season trip, Kendall said: "Dean has promised to think things over at the weekend and then tell us his decision. We can't go on waiting for ever."

That was on the Friday morning. On the Friday afternoon Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough launched a late attempt to snatch Saunders away. Forest agreed the same fee and tempted Saunders with the prospect of not having to move house from the East Midlands.

Saunders said later: "I was impressed with the way Kendall did business. And I was really impressed by Clough, too."

But, just when it seemed Forest were about to snatch Everton's prize, they too were upstaged, by Liverpool.

A watchful local photographer on Merseyside was the first man to realise what was afoot that Friday evening. He was "door-stepping" Anfield to take pictures of Liverpool manager Graeme Souness and England defender Wright, whose £2.2million move from Derby had long been anticipated.

But when Wright arrived, Saunders was with him. The photographer alerted the national newspapers, who scrambled their Merseyside sports reporters from their evening armchairs and down to Anfield.

The story was out. In the half-hour or so that Fleet Street had to mobilise, Souness and Saunders had all but agreed terms. At £2.9million (the extra £100,000 related to loyalty bonus considerations) Saunders was about to become the subject of the most expensive domestic transfer in British football history.

At first, Souness admitted, he had not intended to get involved in the auction. Wright had been his priority. After all, extra non-England players would create complications for Liverpool's return to European

Roy Saunders . . . former Liverpool wing-half and a great influence on his son.

THE WORLD'S TOP TRANSFERS

£8m	Roberto **BAGGIO**	Fiorentina to Juventus	1990
£5.5m	Ruud **GULLIT**	PSV Eindhoven to Milan	1987
£5.5m	Thomas **HASSLER**	Koln to Juventus	1990
£5.5m	David **PLATT**	Aston Villa to Bari	1991
£5.5m	Karl-Heinz **RIEDLE**	Werder Bremen to Lazio	1990
£4.7m	Lajos **DETARI**	Eintracht Frankfurt to Olympiakos	1988
£4.3m	Chris **WADDLE**	Tottenham Hotspur to Marseille	1989

BRITAIN'S TOP DOMESTIC TRANSFERS

£2.9m	Dean **SAUNDERS**	Derby to Liverpool	1991
£2.3m	Gary **PALLISTER**	Middlesbrough to Man United	1989
£2.2m	Tony **COTTEE**	West Ham to Everton	1988
£2.2m	Paul **GASCOIGNE**	Newcastle to Tottenham	1988
£2.2m.	Mark **WRIGHT**	Derby to Liverpool	1991
£2m	Alexei **MIKHAILICHENKO**	Sampdoria to Rangers	1991

DEAN SAUNDERS & HIS LEAGUE GOALS

1983-84	Swansea	3
1984-85	Swansea	9
	Cardiff (loan)	0
1985-86	Brighton	15
1986-87	Brighton	6
	Oxford	6
1987-88	Oxford	12
1988-89	Oxford	4
	Derby	14
1989-90	Derby	11
1990-91	Derby	21

earn record fee

competition this coming season. Each team may field only FOUR players not qualified for their own national association — and Saunders, of course, is Welsh.

Then, as Souness said: "I simply had a change of heart."

Saunders was delighted. He says: "When my business manager told me Liverpool had made a bid I had no hesitation. I went straight to my car and headed for Merseyside. In my heart I had already made up my mind I was going to sign for Liverpool.

"Then, when I spoke to Graeme, I knew this was the club for me. He wants to win and everything he does is geared to that objective. The fact that I cost a British record means nothing at Anfield. It won't guarantee me a place in the team if I don't do the business."

Attractions

One of the over-riding attractions of Liverpool was that Saunders had spent all his career with unsuccessful clubs. All five he had played for, including a four-game loan spell with Cardiff, had been relegated during his time there or soon afterwards!

Saunders says: "Every player who thinks he's got ability would jump at the chance to play for Liverpool. And the great thing is that there are so many good players the transfer fee won't seem a burden. I had enough of that pressure when Derby bought me from Oxford for £1million.

"Now, though, I understand things better. I'm 27, married with two children, I've grown up and I'm ready for the challenge.

"Everyone at Liverpool is desperately disappointed they didn't win the title last season. That's what Souness wants at the end of the new season — and so do I. I just can't wait to get started."

Saunders's father, Roy, played 132 League games at wing-half for Liverpool in the 1950s. He was an

Bond . . . gave Saunders away.

England youth international, who later wound down his career at Swansea, where Dean was born on June 21, 1964.

Roy has provided an enormous, consistent influence on his son. Saunders junior says: "He's taught me nearly everything I know. He still travels to watch me, even abroad. And he still tells me if I'm doing something wrong or differently from normal. But usually, nowadays, I know."

Saunders works hard at his game and the accuracy and power of shot which is his greatest weapon. He says: "Once I heard Bobby Charlton saying he used to practise his shooting by kicking a ball against a wall. I though: If it was good enough for him then it's good enough for me.

"Even now, if I find I'm not striking a ball cleanly in matches or in training then I go back to the wall."

As a teenager in Swansea, Saunders was a local goalscoring sensation. A serious knee injury at 17 threatened to end his professional career before it had begun. But after a year he was fit and strong enough to take up where he left off with Swansea City.

Unfortunately, his own confidence in his ability was not shared by Swansea manager John Bond. In 1985, Bond loaned him to Cardiff, then gave him a free transfer. Only Brighton and lowly Lincoln showed interest.

Bond says now: "Maybe that was the best thing that happened to the boy. His attitude just wasn't right. Anyway, no player ever made it at Swansea. By getting him out of the place, I like to think that, in a funny sort of way, I helped him get his attitude right."

Saunders opted to try his luck with Brighton. He scored 21 goals in little more than a season and a half before being sold to Oxford for a modest £70,000. It was a bargain. One of the 22 goals he grabbed in the next 18 months arrived just 16 seconds from the end of a match against Luton and saved Oxford from relegation.

In that time Oxford made a profit of £930,000 on Saunders, who went on his way to Derby for £1million. Oxford manager Mark Lawrenson, furious that chairman Kevin Maxwell had not told him about the sale, quit in disgust.

In the midst of such domestic disappointment, Saunders was beginning to threaten the Wales attacking partnership of Ian Rush and Mark Hughes.

After some unhappy experiments, Wales boss Terry Yorath decided that Rush and Saunders were the best strike partnership, with Hughes powering through from midfield.

So far that readjustment has paid off with 10 goals in 25 internationals — including goals home and away against Belgium in the current European qualifying series.

Just as Saunders has never shirked his duty with Wales, so he played his heart out for Derby and manager Arthur Cox, even when it was obvious that, despite Saunders, Wright and England goalkeeper Peter Shilton, they too were sliding out of the First Division.

Saunders says: "Arthur told me I had to set an example while Derby were up against it. In return I was sure Arthur would look after my interests and tell me of any offers which came along. In the meantime, as he was honest with me, I had to be honest with him."

Saunders may have been building a superstar reputation, but Cox never provided an inkling of recognition. That's his style. That's how he has created a reputation as a hard taskmaster.

On one of the rare occasions when Cox provided the outside world with an insight into his methods, he said: "You must never let players think you're satisfied, otherwise they get complacent. You always have to find ways to find fault with them.

"Sometimes I gave Dean videos of our matches to watch — but only videos of games in which he had played badly. I did that if I wanted to give him a kick up the backside."

KEIR RADNEDGE WS

HIS ADMIRERS ...

ARTHUR COX (Derby manager): ***"No striker in the World Cup would have tempted me to exchange for Dean."***

NEVILLE SOUTHALL (Wales and Everton goalkeeper): ***"He makes you believe anything is possible."***

TERRY YORATH (Wales manager): ***"He's very easy to work with - a great enthusiast. People talk about £8 million for Paul Gascoigne but Saunders has got as much going for him, if not more."***

MARK WRIGHT (England and Liverpool centre back): ***"I'm just relieved he's still going to be on my side and not playing against me!"***

Surging . . . Blanc drives the French on from his position as sweeper.

After a season in which he led Montpellier to the Cup-winners' Cup quarter-final, became a France regular and earned a lucrative move to Napoli, Blanc no longer holds any doubts as to the wisdom of his positional switch.

"Initially I though it would restrict me," he says. "But I came to realise that with nobody to mark, I have plenty of scope to move forward.

"I would never limit myself to just being a defender. As long as I have the strength to attack, I will do so. That's why I admire someone like Franco Baresi. When he sees an opportunity to advance, he takes it."

Consistent

Certainly few could accuse Blanc of being a "libero" who regards the opposition's half as alien territory. Last season he scored 14 League goals, and headed the third in France's 3-1 home win over Spain, which enhanced French chances of qualifying for the European Championship finals in Sweden.

In the past critics labelled Blanc as gifted but prone to nonchalance. Today they praise the "new" and consistent Blanc.

"My image of being a little lazy was perhaps justified then," he admits. "During certain matches I did not give my all.

"But at the end of last season I told myself that things had to change. Montpellier had just won the French Cup but in the League the displays were often disappointing."

Blanc was born on November 19, 1965, in Ales, where he took his first footballing steps.

"Even at the age of ten there seemed little he could not do with a ball," says his father. "The only time a football was not at his feet was when he was sleeping or eating."

At 16 he was spotted in a schoolboy representative match and subsequently he left home to become an apprentice at nearby Montpellier. His first year at the club was marked by reserve team soccer and homesickness, but in the following season coach Robert Nouzaret gave him his debut in a Second Division game against Grenoble.

"I was very lucky to be picked for the first team so early in my career," says Blanc. "At that time Montpellier had just been relegated, and to save money they began to look to the youngsters rather than pay expensive transfer fees."

All seemed easy for Blanc. He was called up for the French youth squad, was elevated to club captain at the age of 20, and in the summer of 1986 celebrated his Under-21 debut with a goal against Cameroon in the Toulon tournament.

A year later his 18 goals helped Montpellier gain promotion, and he admits that he was surprised to find life in the top flight relatively easy.

"I had been led to believe there was an enormous difference in standard between the First and Second divisions," he explains. "But on reaching the First in 1987, I discovered that there is only a slight gap — nothing to worry about."

Consolation

The 1987-88 championship ended with the new boys in a highly-creditable third place, and Blanc could look forward to his initial experience of European club football in the UEFA Cup.

In October 1988 Benfica put paid to Montpellier's dreams, but Blanc found consolation as a member of his country's Under-21 side who beat Greece for the European title.

He had to wait only four months before Platini gave him his full debut, in a goalless draw in Dublin versus the Republic of Ireland.

Blanc follows Platini's Italian trail

SWEEP

ITALY beckons for French international sweeper Laurent Blanc.

Several weeks of speculation about Blanc and Marseille ended when Napoli emerged to clinch a £2 million deal.

Blanc, the 25-year-old Montpellier captain, is the first Frenchman to play in Italy since Michel Platini performed with distinction at Juventus during the 1980s.

And Platini, now manager of France, is sure Blanc will benefit from the experience.

"The weekly pressures of Italian soccer will harden Laurent into a better player," says Platini. "Most people in France appreciate his class, and soon supporters in Italy will come to the same conclusion."

Not that Blanc always occupied the "libero" position. Since his schooldays he had been a midfielder, but at the beginning of the 1990-91 campaign new Montpellier coach Henryk Kasperczak had other ideas.

"From the very start I wanted Laurent to be my sweeper, because I believed he would have more freedom to express himself at the back than in a crowded midfield," says Kasperczak. "The problem was to convince him.

"Once he had accepted the challenge, he set to work, and was consistently outstanding for us."

Such was Blanc's progress in his new role that Platini had no hesitation in making him the sweeper for last autumn's European Championship qualifier against Czechoslovakia in Paris.

Platini says: "Bearing in mind Laurent's technique, strength in the air and vision, he could play in virtually any position.

I already had a quality sweeper, Franck Sauzee of Monaco, but Laurent's form as a defensive spare man forced me to change my plans."

Celebrating . . . his goal against the Spanish in Paris last February.

Training . . . with new club Napoli.

Now he has 15 full caps, and his most fervent wish is to participate in next summer's European Championships with a rejuvenated French team.

"I am by nature quite reserved," he says "But after having realised that I was not fulfilling my potential, I have become more determined.

"I'm sure that I can develope into an even better player, and I hope to prove that at Napoli."

NICK BIDWELL

MOST Swedish footballers go abroad to further their international careers. Peter Larsson has done exactly the reverse.

Central defender Larsson, now 30, is back in the part-time world of Swedish football after three years with Holland's glamour club, Ajax of Amsterdam.

He is hoping that by turning his back on the professional game and signing for AIK in Stockholm, he'll ensure himself a place in Sweden's central defence when they attempt to win the European Championship on home turf next summer.

Injury and the emergence of a young placement Marciano Vink, persuaded Larsson that the time had come to move on, even though his choice of club was a surprise. AIK have not won the Championship for 50 years.

"The last two months I was with Ajax, I was sitting on the bench," he explains. "I want to play in the European Championship, so when AIK came in for me, I thought it was a good opportunity to move home."

Guaranteed

The return to Sweden has brought Larsson the guaranteed first-team football he was seeking — and a considerable change of lifestyle.

Larsson now works for one of Sweden's largest insurance companies. He leaves at lunchtime to join his AIK team-mates for training sessions in the afternoons.

"I've a wife and two children, so I have to work as well as play football," he says. "And I like to work.

"In Holland I had a little bit too much time on my hands outside football. It's nice if you've got a family, but I want to stay within normal life, to do what normal people are doing."

This is not untypical in Sweden. Few footballers can survive only on the wages they earn from their clubs. Indeed only one club, Malmo FF, employ a squad of full-time footballers.

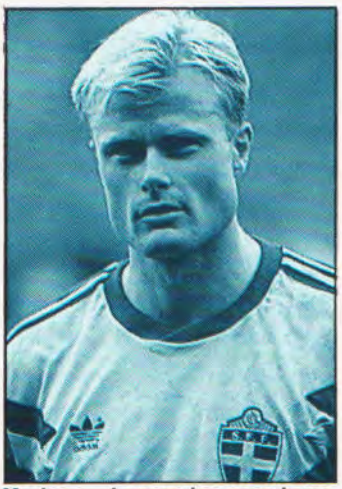
"Normal" work is not, however, merely a question of economic necessity — it is actively encouraged. They make some kind of provision for the future, and don't suddenly wake up at the age of 35 to find that it is all over.

Perhaps because of this, footballers in Sweden generally neither expect nor receive the adulation they might in other countries.

Concentrating. . . Larsson in action for Sweden.

ING UP

Larsson goes home to extend his career



Moving . . . Larsson has gone home.

As most football in Sweden is played in stadiums that are at best three-quarters full, this is hardly surprising. At some of the bigger, more glamorous clubs in other parts of Europe things are a little different.

"At Ajax we had a very young squad," says Larsson. "There were a lot of players who came in straight from school, became professionals, started earning a lot fo money, and spent it on a flashy car, or a luxury flat .

"But they lost all understanding for the value of money. They forgot, if they ever knew, what it is like to have to save up for something."

Going back to Sweden has taken some of the stress out of Larsson's life. "Here people enjoy playing more than they do in Holland," he says. "Here we're more pleased when we win.

"At Ajax, if you won, that was only to be expected, if you lost, it was a disaster."

Yet Larsson is generally enthusiastic about his time in Holland, and says he would advise other Swedes to go abroad if given the chance.

"You learn so much as a person, outside the game, and at the same time it's a great experience as a footballer.

But it's useful before you become a professional to have done some kind of normal job, to know what life is like for people who aren't as privileged as us."

Larsson brings great experience both to a young AIK team and a relatively inexperienced international squad.

As well as his three years with Ajax, he was a member of the IFK Gothenburg team who reached the 1986 Champions' Cup semi-final and won the UEFA Cup in 1987, and he has made more than 40 appearances at full international level.

Larsson also played in last year's World Cup finals, although perhaps the least said about that the better. The European Championship is a chance for the Swedes to atone for that flop.

Peter Larsson will be there, as long as he can hold off the more youthful claimants to his place.

"I have to do a little extra training on my own nowadays," he smiles. "Just to keep up with the others."

TIM MANSEL

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THE RIVALS

FOR THE BEST OF BRITISH - AND IRISH

By KEIR RADNEDGE

CHAMPIONS' CUP

FK AUSTRIA (v Arsenal)

TOP club in Vienna who owe their record 19th championship to the creative talents of two imported Lithuanians - Arminas Narbekovas and Validas Ivanauskas. The Violets' one claim to European fame was finishing runners-up to Anderlecht in the Cup-winners' Cup Final of 1978. No fewer than six FKA stars featured in the national team's World Cup squad last year in Italy.

KISPEST-HONVED (v Dundalk)

A NAME which echoes down soccer's generations but whose present set-up and squad has little in common with the stars of the 1950s. On top of that, Honved have lost some of their best players during the summer, including star goalkeeper Zsolt Petry. Dundalk could spring a surprise.

RED STAR BELGRADE (v Portadown)

THE HOLDERS of the Champions' Cup should possess much too much firepower for the champions of Northern Ireland, despite the departure of Robert Prosinecki to Real Madrid and coach Ljubko Petrovic to Espanol of Barcelona. Red Star will play their 'home' leg in Hungary since they are under a one-match European ban. That may be considered doubly essential considering the political and security uncertainties within Yugoslavia.

SPARTA PRAHA (v Rangers)

THE MOST popular club in Czechoslovakia but whose greatest days were during the inter-war years. All Sparta's best players have been transferring west as fast as they can go. Rangers should have few problems.

Weah . . . the Liberian striker has been superb in attack for Monaco.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

STOCKERAU (preliminary round v Tottenham)

SECOND division nobodies when they sprung the biggest shock in 20 years in Austria, upsetting mighty Rapid Vienna 3-1 in the cup final. Stockerau have never appeared in Europe before - and had never even dreamed of appearing in Europe. After the cup triumph coach Willi Kreuz, a former World Cup forward, was honest enough to admit that he didn't expect lightning to strike twice.

HAJDUK SPLIT (v Tottenham - if they beat Stockerau)

SUCCEEDED where Chris Waddle and Marseille failed - since Hajduk won the Yugoslav cup final by defeating Red Star Belgrade 1-0. Hajduk last appeared in Europe in 1988. Their absence has been due to a three-year ban inflicted because hooligans let off a small bomb during a Cup-winners' Cup tie against Marseille. The refusal of Croat clubs to start the Slav season may lead to that ban being extended - which would guarantee Spurs a walk-over into the second round.

ATHINAIKOS (v Manchester United)

NOT to be confused with Panathinaikos, perrenial Greek champions. Athinaikos were promoted to the first division only two seasons ago. They lost 5-1 on aggregate to Panathinaikos in the Greek cup final but owe their European debut to the fact that Panathinaikos, as champions, enter the European Cup instead.

GKS KATOWICE (v Motherwell)

GKS are poor relations of traditional giants Gornik and Ruch Chorzow in the mining region of Silesia. Key players last term were defender Roman Szewczyk and midfielder Janusz Nawrocki.

ILVES TAMPERE (v Glenavon)

CELEBRATING 20 years since their first appearance in Europe. But they have never yet got beyond the first round in either of the three competitions

OB (Preliminary round v Galway)

OWE their presence in the Cup-winners' Cup to a penalty shoot-out victory over AaB Aalborg after their Danish cup final replay ended in a goalless draw

MONACO (v Swansea)

MONACO made a superb goal-scoring start to the French season. Liberia's Georges Weah has been in superb form in attack. Other stars now include Ivory Coast winger Youssouf Fofana, France midfielders Gerald Passi and Marcel Dib, Denmark defender John Sivebaek and 1982 World Cup keeper Jean-Luc Ettori.

Wohlfarth . . . top scorer last term.

UEFA CUP

KUUSYSI LAHTI (v Liverpool)

ONE of only three Finnish clubs ever to have reached a European quarter-final - which could be a good omen for Liverpool. The year Lahti got that far was 1986, when they lost in the Champions' Cup to the eventual winners, Steaua Bucharest. A key man this past year has been a Wandsworth boy - former Wimbledon forward Mike Belfield.

BK1903 (v Aberdeen)

FINISHED runners-up to Brondby last year in the Danish league, but were no fewer than 11 points adrift of the champions!

SIGMA OLOMOUC (v Bangor)

NOW under their eighth different title since being founded back in 1919 as FC Hejcin. Their previous UEFA Cup attempt ended in a first-round thrashing by IFK Gothenburg in 1986.

GERMINAL EKEREN (v Celtic)

LITTLE-KNOWN Belgian club whose prospects suffered an anguished setback when star veteran Simon Tahamata suffered a serious hand injury in a lawnmower accident at home. Guido Hofmans was their 18-goal revelation of last season.

BAYERN MUNICH (v Cork City)

BAYERN have lost not only the German championship this year but star defenders such as Jurgen Kohler and Stefan Reuter (Italy-bound) as well as Klaus Augenthaler (retired). Bruno Labbadia, from champions Kaiserslautern, has strengthened an attack in which Roland Wohlfarth was the West German league's 21-goal top scorer last term.

TELEVISION COVERAGE

*** ITV had England's European club effort virtually all to themselves last term while BBC 'had' Rangers. Now BBC are back in the market with Liverpool's high-interest, high-profile return to continental competition following the lifting of the post-Heysel ban.**

BBC also cover Rangers and Motherwell while ITV have signed up Arsenal (Champions' Cup) and Tottenham and Manchester United (Cup-winners' Cup).

This television competition promises a few match clashes which could be good news for the videotape.

TREVOR BROOKING

LAST season; Manchester United and Aston Villa signalled the return of English clubs back into Europe and United's marvellous success in winning the Cup-winners' Cup was an added bonus.

This time round England have four representatives and the strength in depth of Arsenal, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool suggests another trophy is well within their grasp.

In the European Champions' Cup, Arsenal play in the competition for only the second time; previously losing in the 1971-72 season to Ajax in the quarter-finals, when current manager George Graham unluckily scored an own goal.

They open this time with a first round tie against Austria Vienna, and although the first leg is at home, which most players dislike, they should come through comfortably enough.

Their initial objective is to get through into the last eight where the new group system then comes into operation, which guarantees the sides remaining some lucrative extra gate revenue.

ANTTI'S

ANTTI MUURINEN, 37, is one of Finland's brightest young coaches. He had a modest career as a midfielder for minor Helsinki clubs, before making his name as a coach in the Finnish Second Division with Kontula. Muurinen took over at Kuusysi Lahti in 1988 and took them to the League title in 1989.

In this article, he tells PENTTI HIETANEN his views on the forthcoming UEFA Cup clash with Liverpool.

Arsenal's Hillier battles with Sampdoria's Katanec in the Makita Tournament.

United and Spurs England's top Euro bets

The other clubs favourite to join them at this stage should come from a list including Marseille, Red Star, Barcelona, Sampdoria, PSV Eindhoven, Anderlecht, Kaiserslautern, Dinamo Kiev, Rangers and Benfica.

Those famous names emphasise the task ahead for the North London team, but their wonderful defensive record in the First Division last year is just the sort of foundation needed at this level.

They must show great patience in these matches and not get anxious if goals don't arrive early on.

In pre-season Arsenal gained useful experience in the Makita Tournament where both Sampdoria and Panathinaikos gave them a taste of what's in store.

One note of caution concerns Arsenal's offside tactic which is so effective in English football, but could be more vulnerable against European sides.

Holders Manchester United welcome Spurs into the Cup-winners' Cup, and on paper this competition offers a great chance for both to go a long way.

Although Roma, Feyenoord, Atletico Madrid, Porto, Werder Bremen, Monaco and Bruges are all experienced campaigners, I'm sure they would all be happy to avoid facing either English club.

United recently signed Paul Parker for £3 million and following Les Sealey's departure, look to Denmark's Peter Schmeichel to end their goalkeeping search.

If he uses his great height and size to dominate his penalty area, United could threaten the dominance of Liverpool and Arsenal in the League.

His signing gives Alex Ferguson a slight problem for his European ties as he can only select four non-English players, and he already has, Irwin, Blackmore, Konchelskis, Hughes and McClair.

He also has an abundance of central midfield players with Robson, Webb, Ince and Phelan less effective if pushed wide.

Neil Webb probably suffered more than anyone from being out of position last season, and he needs to regain his form if he is to push his way back into Graham Taylor's plans.

They begin their defence of the trophy by travelling to Greece to play Athinaikos, and with Lee Sharpe getting stronger each season, Hughes and McClair should find sufficient opportunities to get on the scoresheet.

Spurs received some early help with their financial plight by being drawn to play in the preliminary round against Stockerau of Austria.

Appointed

If they come through that they have a formidable looking tie against Hajduk Split, but with the political unrest currently unsettling Yugoslavia, Hajduk's participation in the competition is unsure.

New managing director Terry Venables has appointed Peter Shreeves as his new team manager and they both realise how important a successful season is if they are to compete in the transfer market on a par with their rivals.

They have added a major signing to compensate for the absence of injured Paul Gascoigne by signing Chelsea's Scottish striker Gordon Durie for £2.2 million.

Towards the end of last season their tactics of playing five men in midfield paid dividends, and helped protect a back four that sometimes appears vulnerable.

Durie's arrival should remove some of the burden on Gary Lineker, who spent much of last season as a lone striker.

Where the system can struggle is if the midfield five fail to make the necessary supporting runs to join Lineker, and he then becomes isolated, as he did in the goalless draw at Wembley during the FA Charity Shield.

I don't feel Spurs are quite ready to sustain a First Division challenge, and so cup success seems the most likely route for them to gain another trophy.

Despite signing Durie, their squad doesn't have the depth of other rivals and so can't afford any injuries to key players.

The last of England's European quartet is Liverpool, who for years dominated this stage, and Graeme Souness has wasted no time in reshaping the Anfield side.

Mark Wright, Dean Saunders and Mark Walters have been signed, while Peter Beardsley, Gary Gillespie, David Speedie and Steve Staunton were the first of several who look like leaving.

Bargain

I was disappointed to see Beardsley leave as I still believe his influence was always evident in Liverpool's best displays and for £1 million, I think Everton might have signed the best bargain of the inflated transfer market during the Summer.

With 64 clubs involved, the UEFA Cup appears as hard as any to win, and clubs like Bayern Munich, Real Madrid, Celtic, Hamburg, Ajax, Aberdeen and Inter Milan, highlight the task ahead for Liverpool.

Their squad also contains more "foreign" players than any of the other English sides, and he faces a difficult decision as to which four he chooses to play from one game to the next.

The first round opponents from Finland are Kuusysi Lahti, who shouldn't be too troublesome, but it would need a marvellous effort from the Merseyside club if they are to add another European trophy to those from the past.

Three exciting competitions look inevitable and while all four clubs are amongst the favourites, perhaps the European Cup-winners' Cup yet again offers England the likeliest favourable outcome.

BIGGEST TEST

"Meeting Liverpool in the UEFA Cup is an honour to my team, because I rate the Reds among the top outfits in the world.

But playing against them is also a massive challenge. We are working hard to improve the image of Finnish football, and, as our national team's recent results — notably the 1-1 draw with Holland — show, we are on the right track. At least we believe so.

But it is still a mind-boggling task to try to achieve a respectable result against giants like Liverpool.

They have set standards for others to follow.

Liverpool have visited Finland three times in the Champions' Cup, in the early 1980s. They had some difficulties over here and in 1982 even lost to HJK in Helsinki, when, if my memory serves me right, it was a slip by a certain Mr Graeme Souness which led to the winning goal. But I am afraid that our teams always received a good hiding at Anfield.

I know that it is almost a mission impossible for me to try to reverse this trend and prepare my lads for the Anfield test. But I will be giving it my best sho

We have a fairly experienced side at Kuusysi and my players are adapting their skill and technique to the greater speed of the international club games.

Remember, in 1986, under my predecessor Keijo Voutilainen, Kuusysi were within minutes of reaching the Champions' Cup semi-finals. Also, in 1989, we gave Paris St. Germain a fright, drawing 0-0 at home and losing only 3-2 away after some controversial refereeing decisions.

Played

Defender Jarmo Saastamoinen and striker Petri Jarvinen are our current national team players. I thought that Jarvinen played well in the match against Holland. He is one of Finland's fastest players, with quite a bit of skill.

Other full internationals in my squad include defender Ilkka Remes, who has nearly 50 caps, and midfielder Jari Rinne. We also have an Englishman of our own in striker Mike Belfield, who has been scoring regularly.

I am well aware that people see this tie as another David versus Goliath affair, but that doesn't bother me. I hope that Liverpool will regard Kuusysi as an easy touch. But I sense that they are a bit nervous after being away from Europe for so long.

They have their reputation to watch and the new ruling by UEFA, which allows them only four non-English players in a European game, must give Souness extra problems.

Saastamoinen . . . a regular in the Finnish national side.

Liverpool are not a typical English side. They play the ball around patiently in midfield looking for an opening, and are able to play and pass at a very high tempo.

Their forwards have pace and perception. Ian Rush and John Barnes are the two individuals we must shut out, otherwise we can kiss the tie goodbye.

At times, when they were hot and cooking under Kenny Dalglish, Liverpool looked simply unbeatable. I don't think that they have changed under Souness, for the club have always placed great onus on the continuity of style.

In this respect we have even tried to copy them at Kuusysi. In Finland, we follow English football very closely, and Liverpool will be a big draw.

Several top English club sides, such as Liverpool, Spurs and Nottingham Forest, as well as England's World Cup team in Italy, like to control the ball on the ground more and that is fine by me, because the traditional up-and-under style does not appear, although I agree that it can be effective, even to the point of being devastating.

I regularly watch matches in Holland and Germany, and their kind of soccer fascinates me. It is a quick, attack-minded style with a systematic build-up executed by intelligent players.

I feel that in football you must always have room for artistry.

In the modern game, a team of 11 artists alone may not win you trophies, but, on the other hand, who wants to watch a team with no artists at all?

At Kuusysi, we think highly of hard work and tactical discipline, but I also want to see players who can win matches by doing it off the cuff."

NEW 'FOREIGNER' RULES PUT ENGLISH

Disaster in

Liverpool's 1985 Champions' Cup Final side, which contained only two English players — Paul Walsh and Phil Neal.

THE Importance of Being English - as Oscar Wilde might have said - has never been such a complex issue within international football.

The European challenge facing Liverpool, Arsenal, Manchester United and Tottenham has been confused by UEFA's new restrictions on the use of foreign players.

And "foreign" means Irish, Welsh and Scots.

No one country has achieved so much success as England in the three European tournaments with so many clubs.

Manchester United (once), Liverpool (four times), Nottingham Forest (twice) and Aston Villa (once) all won the Champions' Cup. Tottenham, West Ham, Manchester City, Chelsea and Everton won the Cup-winners' Cup once each. And Leeds, Tottenham and Liverpool (twice each), Newcastle, Arsenal and Ipswich all won the Fairs/UEFA Cup. No fewer than 13 clubs.

Italy, by comparison, has provided three winners of the Champions' Cup (Milan, Inter and Juventus), four winners of the Cup-winners' Cup (Fiorentina, Milan, Juventus and Sampdoria) and three of the Fairs/UEFA Cup (Roma, Juventus and Napoli). Total: seven clubs.

English clubs are now back competing on an equal basis with the rest of Europe. But the prospects of regaining that position of dominance achieved between 1963 and 1985 (when Tottenham and Everton were first and last English winners in Europe) have been wiped away.

Changes were inevitable as Swiss-based UEFA sought to balance the needs of competitive egalitarianism for member nations both inside and outside the European Community.

The new UEFA regulations state, simply enough, that each club may field a maximum of four players not qualified for the club's nation of affiliation. But putting that rule into effect will be far from simple ... because English clubs have never previously thought of Scots, Irishmen and Welshmen as foreigners.

Liverpool manager Graeme Souness is wide awake to the problems. One of the advantages of buying Mark Wright to strengthen central defence is the fact that Wright is English.

Souness says: "You need only look back to the last game of last season to gauge the size of the problem. Only five of our players in the 13 against Tottenham were English.

"We have to be professional and guard against the pitfalls of Europe. Our problem is that there are too many foreigners in our side."

Casualty

Similarly, why else have Rangers been pruning their "foreign" (English) personnel? Goalkeeper Chris Woods was just the first casualty of Walter Smith's conscious effort to put his house in order.

Very few "real" foreigners - Italians, French, German, Spanish, etc - understand the nationality differences within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. They can't understand why a "British" team is not fielded in World Cups and European championships.

The reason, of course, is historical. When the English "created" modern, codified football in the mid-1800s, it was only natural that the first internationals involved England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

In turn, when FIFA were launched in 1904, the British associations all joined as individual members. Such was British pre-eminence in this new sport that no-body thought to question the arrangement whereby each "province" had its own federation.

There was the Scottish Football Association, the Welsh Football Association, the Irish Football Association and - just to emphasise the origins of the modern game - the Football Association. Not, you note, the English Football Association. Just the Football Association!

As football spread throughout the world FIFA developed a controlling system involving one member, one vote. The four British FAs each had a separate vote. They ran separate senior leagues, they continued to compete as separate national teams. The status quo remained unchallenged even after the Four left FIFA in the 1920s in a dispute over amateurism.

After the Second World War the Four negotiated their re-entry into FIFA at the same time as the Soviet Union. All five each negotiated the right to permanent membership of the FIFA executive committee through a vice-president.

But ... the Four also negotiated, as terms of their return, a guarantee within the FIFA statutes that their separate identities would be protected.

From season 1988-89 on, a club participating in one of the European competitions may not line up more than FOUR non-national players in a match. A non-national player is considered one who is not qualified to play for the national teams of the club's country.

CLUBS IN TROUBLE

Europe

Woods . . . surplus to requirements at Rangers.

That is the situation today, but this historical compromise has now served to betray English clubs' ambitions within the three European cups.

The club teams of the Football League are peppered with Scots, Irish and Welshmen. In addition, up to three foreign (i.e. non-UK) players are allowed in each team.

Also, as a further complication, a significant number of England-born players have taken advantage of FIFA regulations to play international football NOT for England, but for the place of birth of their father or mother - thus converting Englishmen into Irishmen and Welshmen to suit the convenience of the Irish and Welsh FAs.

For example, no fewer than seven of the 13 members of the Irish Republic team beaten by Italy in the World Cup in Rome last summer were not born in Ireland (Morris, McCarthy, McGrath, Townsend, Sheedy, Aldridge and Sheridan).

Now for the UEFA complication. The European confederation, seeking to find a compromise with the European Commission which acknowledges freedom of labour laws but protects the inherent national character of each member federation has standardised rules on teams entering the three European club competitions.

For almost all UEFA's members these restrictions are no problems. Italian clubs have lived under their own "stranieri" restrictions for years. The last time the borders were reopened was in 1980. One "straniero" per team was permitted. Soon it was two per team. Then three.

Spain are one ahead, at four, in the latest twist of their own rules. At one time Spain had no restrictions.

From 1962 the Spanish federation banned all imports and did not relax the rules for a decade. Then the pressure built up, as in Italy. First one import was allowed. Then two. Then three. Recently, the federation approved a proposal that each club may register four foreign players while fielding no more than three at any one time in League games.

UEFA's foreign player regulations mean comparative freedom in the international transfer markets for the big clubs of Italy and Spain and Germany. But for the English, the new rules are disastrous.

Consider the Liverpool team who won the Champions' Cup against Roma in the Stadio Olimpico in 1984: Grobbelaar (Zimbabwe); Neal (England), Lawrenson (Ireland), Hansen (Scotland), Kennedy (England), Lee (England), Johnston (Australia), Souness (Scotland) Whelan (Ireland), Dalglish (Scotland) and Rush (Wales).

An English team with only three Englishmen!

One year later, consider the Liverpool team who began against Juventus that terrible night in Brussels: Grobbelaar, Neal. Lawrenson, Hansen, Beglin (Ireland), Dalglish, Whelan, Nicol (Scotland), Wark (Scotland); Rush, Walsh (England).

An English team with, this time, only two Englishmen!

So what is the background to the new regulations — regulations which are virtually meaningless in an Italian and Spanish football context but the cause of increasing concern within the UK ?

They were introduced, ironically, by a UEFA executive committee meeting at St Andrews, Scotland, on May 2 and 3, 1988. Frenchman Jacques Georges, then UEFA's president, was in the chair.

They decided: From season 1988-89 on, a club participating in one of the European competitions may not line up more than FOUR non-national players in a match. A non-national player is considered one who is not qualified to play for the national teams of the club's country.

Complicated

As a transitional aid, UEFA excluded "foreign" players already registered with a club before May 3, 1988. That exclusion expired at the end of last season. Thus this new season is the first in which the new regulations really bite.

The immediate impact is on differential team selection between League and European games. The use of substitutes is now further complicated by the need to compute "foreign" representation on the pitch at any one time.

But there is a secondary consideration. The new rules emphasise the importance of being English. No longer will fine players such as Mark Lawrenson, and Paul McGrath be so quick to renounce their England eligibility in favour of Ireland or Wales. To do so could materially restrict their aspirations within the bread-and-butter world of English club football.

The managers and coaches of Liverpool, Arsenal, Tottenham and Manchester United will consider national team eligibility - and thus European eligibility - when they consider buying.

No point spending £1million on a new player if he has to be left out of European matches. That would be bad business.

Noel White and Peter Robinson, chairman and chief executive of Liverpool, do not entirely agree with that principle.

White once said: "The most important competition for Liverpool Football Club will always be the League Championship. Our club economy was built on a regular presence in European competition. But to achieve that, it is an essential prerequisite to win the Championship. Therefore we will always buy whatever players our manager feels he needs to attain that objective."

The £2.9million purchase of Welshman Dean Saunders was surely proof. However, the "European Effect" was surely at work in Irish international Steve Staunton's sale to Aston Villa and the exclusion from first-team pre-season plans of Molby (Denmark), Hysen (Sweden) and Rosenthal (Israel).

In an ideal world, the answer would be for English clubs to invest ever more heavily in new players; to carry a squad of 20-24 players so the manager can field whatever team he likes in the League and a team with only minimal weaknesses in Europe.

But ... in the wake of the Bradford and Hillsborough tragedies, all English clubs are committed to spending millions of pounds on stadia safety. English clubs own their own grounds and THEY are therefore wholly responsible for maintaining them.

Already, the effect of stadia expenditure is being felt in the transfer market. On transfer deadline day this past spring, total expenditure was down from £1.5million last year to £1.1million. More evidence that solving the European puzzle by heavy spending and stock-piling players is not a realistic proposition.

Liverpool, Arsenal, Tottenham, Manchester United and the rest have no alternative: they may not like the new rules but they must learn to live with them. Arsenal — by accident or design — are streets ahead of the rest in playing football the English way.

In time the clubs, coaches and players will acclimatise. But, perversely, the Importance of Being English means that the prospects of scaling those same old peaks, the same old way is open to doubt.

KEIR RADNEDGE WS

HARDAKER'S DOOMSDAY WARNING

**** ALAN HARDAKER, the late general secretary of the Football League throughout the 1960s and 1970s, always feared the direct or indirect influence of the European Economic Community.**

In March, 1978, he said: "The Treaty of Rome could cause football in western Europe more damage than the two world wars put together. History is my precedent. The wholesale importation of foreign players killed Italian football until they imposed their ban in 1964. Even then it took them ten years to get back to the top again."

**** In 1976 the European Court of Justice ruled that football clubs were violating EC rules by limiting the number of players from other EC states.**

FOREIGNERS WITH TOP CLUBS

•On the last Saturday of last season the following teams lined up:-

ARSENAL: 6-1 v Coventry.
Seaman - Dixon, Winterburn, Hillier, Bould, Adams, Campbell, Davis, Smith, Merson, **Limpar (Sweden). Total: one**

ASTON VILLA 2 v CHELSEA 2
Villa: Spink - Price, Gage, Mountfield, **McGrath (RI), Nielson (Den),** Penrice, Platt, **Cascarino (RI),** Cowans, **Yorke (Trin).**
Total: four.
Chelsea: Beasant - **Clarke (S),** Dorigo, **Townsend (RI),** Cundy (Pearce), **Monkou (Hol),** Stuart, Dickens (Myers), **Durie (S),** Dixon, Wise.
Total: four.

MANCHESTER UTD: 0-3 v Crystal Palace
Walsh - Irwin, **Donaghy (NI),** Bruce, Webb, Pallister (Beardsmore), **Konchelskis (SU),** Ince, Robins (Wratten), **Ferguson (S),** Wallace.
Total: three.

LIVERPOOL 2 v TOTTENHAM 0
Liverpool: **Grobbelaar (Zim)** - Ablett, Burrows (McManaman 72), **Nicol (S), Hysen (Swe), Staunton (RI),** Marsh, **Houghton (RI), Rush (W),** Barnes (Beardsley), **Speedie (S).**
Total: seven.
Spurs: **Thorstvedt (Nor)** - Edinburgh, Van Den **Hauwe (W),** Sedgeley, Howells (Walsh), Mabbutt, Stewart, Gascoigne, Samways, Lineker (Hendry), Allen.
Total: two.

EVERTON: 1-1 v Queen's Park Rangers
Southall (W) - Ebbrell, Jenkins, **Ratcliffe (W),** Watson (Youds), **Sheedy (RI), Nevin (S), McCall (S),** Newell, Cottee (Milligan) Beagrie.
Total: five.

The Brian Glanville COLUMN

WANTED: ANOTHER HARDAKER, yes things are that bad

Charles Hughes . . . promises.

SITTING up there on the dais at Lancaster Gate among the great and the good, did Charles (Long Ball) Hughes, the man who once told an audience in America that Brazil had got it all wrong, believe he had at last reached The Position of Maximum Opportunity?

As so-called Project Director of the Football Association's Blueprint for Football, he was now, potentially, a mover and shaker, an engineer of the New Order in which the Football League would be bested at last, the leading clubs brought under the aegis of the FA, winners of a battle which had been carried on, more or less openly, for years.

Those of us who had poured scorn on his tactical ideas, those who, he had predicted, would one day "be brought to justice" - the words were tape-recorded - would be finally confounded.

Statistics

Bolstered by the statistics and predictions of no less than the Henley Centre (what?) - Charles Hughes has always been a great one for statistics.

He could promise pie in the sky. Sorry, riches beyond the dreams of avarice. Glossily produced and emetically badly written, the Blueprint announced that the takings of the Premier Division clubs would be no less than quadrupled.

Immense sums would be garnered from selling rights to logos, symbols and the like. Analogies were drawn, bewilderingly, with the American National (Gridiron) Football League. To the amazement of Trevor Phillips, the man in charge of commercial activities for the Football League, who pointed out that as things stood, his clubs made only a fraction of the sum promised.

Daringly, I suggested at the FA's Press Conference that Panglossian optimism had crept in. The brochure was full of cant about expanding leisure and disposable income; at a time when the country was passing through its worst and longest recession for decades.

Mr Hughes tartly replied that he preferred the forecasts of the Henley Centre to my own. Good luck to him. "We shall see," I said. No doubt we shall.

Let me confess, now, that I had at first been a convert; well before one was faced with that egregious Blueprint, which reminded me of the old hoary joke about the food in a certain restaurant: "Crap: but beautifully cooked."

What attracted me, initially, was the prospect of an 18-club First Division, after the clubs had selfishly and stupidly decided to beef it up again to 22.

Swiftly taking the moral high ground, the FA declared that an 18-club League would allow more time for the England team and its players to rest and concentrate, thereby leading to greater success, thereby leading to greater popularity of the game, thereby leading to more and more MONEY.

The evident object of the exercise. Fine words butter no parsnips. Still less when an England team has been sent toiling round the world in violently contrasting zones of climate, to play third-rate teams at the end of a demanding season.

By the time you read this, who knows what will have happened? What was wretchedly clear from the Blueprint was that the FA had got things hopelessly wrong.

Starting piously and pompously from the position that dissension was bad for football, it reached the implicit point that corporatism was good; implying that the interests of the big clubs (essentially their greedy selves) and those of the FA (the good of football) were the same.

Situation

The reason I am happy to write this at a time when the whole situation is manifestly in flux is that it has long since been demonstrated that Graham Kelly (FA Chief Executive) and company, have been taken for a ride on a tiger.

The irony of the situation is that Graham Kelly was, until recently, the Football League secretary.

Which would now no doubt give anything for another Alan Hardacker who, whatever his xenophia and

GAZZA'S DESPERATE NEED

The old Paul Gascoigne . . . twisting and turning an opponent inside out.

PR PEOPLE are not among my favourite but when one of them, Keith Altham, said recently, "Someone like Paul Gascoigne desperately needs a good PR," it was hard to disagree with him.

The previous day, one had read elsewhere that Gazza had been writing tender loving poetry to Stein and Lazarus, the two lawyers who look after him and who, they assure us, treat him like one of the family.

I've no reason to disbelieve them. But not long before that, Gascoigne had been reported as arriving at Gatwick Airport with two large friends, allegedly abusing a polite journalist and a cameraman who had confronted him, while the two friends tried to wrest the camera out of the photographer's grasp.

Just a very ordinary scene in the long, tumultuous career of such as Frank Sinatra, but not much good for Gazza at a time when we still cannot be sure if he will ever recapture the marvellous form which made him the outstanding English player of his generation, and one of the finest since the war.

As one who trumpeted his virtues long before Fleet Street at large, and Bobby Robson, leaped on the bandwagon (stand up the senior journalists who told me how mad I was to promote Gascoigne during the 1988 Euro Finals in West Germany). I have to admit that I find him a less and less engaging figure.

If he thinks he has suffered Press pressure here, woe betide him as and when he gets to Rome and finds out what it can be really like at its worst.

Stein and Lazarus, alas, won't be able to protect him against that. I still hope he will be capable of doing the tedious remedial exercises on that injured knee; of seeing through the almost equally difficult period of readjustment which will follow when he plays again.

All the more difficult, as one distinguished defender who had such an operation told me it must be, for a player who twists and turns with the electric brilliance of Gascoigne at his best. Poetry in motion then. And now, a need for friends. Candid ones.

Graham Kelly . . . taken for a ride.

provincialism, his initial, bitter opposition to the European Cup, at least always fought hard for the League's interests.

Hard not to cry "a plague on both your houses," and pull in another house, that of the grasping First Division clubs, for good or bad measure. "But that isn't the end of this horrid affair," one might sing, to the tune of Uncle Tom Cobleigh.

The best one can say is that English football is no worse run than ghastly FIFA, who ruined the World Cup and misread such rules as that of the professional foul; or of UEFA, who still have not dealt with another horrid affair, that of the Spartak Moscow forward filched from Zenit Leningrad with no right to play in the quarter-final of the European Cup, against Real Madrid, let alone the semis, against Marseille.

Platt's enormous burden

GOOD LUCK to David Platt in his adventure to Bari, but the deal still surprises me, from many points of view.

First, the size of the fee. Will Platt be worth it? I mean no disrespect, the more so as I admit to being quite wrong about him as a potential England player.

His earlier performances led me to categorise him as one of Nature's foot soldiers. After the World Cup, and his inspired performances, his splendid goals, he sent me a letter saying that he felt at least he should be seen as a non-commissioned officer!

My reply was that I had tried to make amends in the final piece I wrote for the Sunday Times, which he clearly had not seen at that juncture. But all credit to Platt.

Where finer players, such as Kenny Dalglish, had failed, and where others such as George Best had never had the chance, he performed and flourished on a World Cup stage.

But £5.5 million? And Bari rather than Marseille? Platt says he had the best advice available, and that Bari thus became his choice. At the time of writing, the tax people are still buzzing ominously around Marseille and the volatile Bernard Tapie, so perhaps this was Platt's reason for choosing Bari.

Perhaps. On the face of it, the preference seems a strange one. Tapie or no, Marseille are champions of France and as such will again be competing in a Champions' Cup which they lost last season only on penalty kicks.

Bari have never been near an Italian championship and in my opinion, never will be. Platt apparently has now renounced his demand for an option which would allow him to join Juventus, were they interested. He says he was convinced in the end by Bari's heavy, £12.5 million, spending, showing that they meant serious business.

But just how serious? Platt apart, none of the players they have signed is of major international stature. Indeed, the only other in the team will be the lively little Brazilian, Joao Paolo, who did well in the Copa America. Maiellaro, a maddeningly inconsistent but unquestionably gifted inside-forward, has been sold to Fiorentina. The young Rumanian centre-forward, Raducioiu, has been lent to Verona.

Ignorant

He will be replaced by the Italo-Australian Frank Farina, who arrives from Bruges with sound credentials, but hardly those of a major star.

Gordon Cowans and Paul Rideout have done their three years hard in Deep South Bari; they were none too happy there after a bright beginning, Cowans rising above the trauma of a broken leg.

"Ignorant, ignorant!" was Cowans's comment on the people of the city when I spoke to him towards the end of the first season.

Bari have a beautiful modern, even futuristic, stadium, but the burden on Platt will be enormous. The "vittimismo", the sheer self pity, of the South can make life hard for a star in Bari.

And how much of a star is he? Fast, immensely energetic, an opportunist with foot and head. But a Paul Gascoigne? Hardly.

Platt . . . in typically energetic action.

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Asia

Violence as Abahani win

DHAKA'S Abahani Krira Chakra won the Dhaka Club Cup, beating their city rivals, Mohammedan Sporting, through a goal from Ghouse in extra time.

Abahani were the best of the six teams participating in the week-long tournament, organised by the Bangladesh Football Federation in aid of cyclone and flood victims.

A third Bangladesh team, Brothers' Union, competed, with three guest clubs — Calcutta's East Bengal, Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting.

The final, at the Nation Stadium, was a typically fierce derby clash. The police had a tough time quelling a crowd disturbance immediately after the goal, and some hooligans among the fans took the battle to the streets. A number of private and public vehicles were vandalised before the police could bring the situation under control.

Group A: East Bengal 1 v 0 Brothers' Union; Dhaka Mohammedans 4 v 1 Brothers' Union; Dhaka Mohammedans 1 v 1 East Bengal.

Group B: Mohun Bagan 1 v 0 Calcutta Mohammedans; Mohun Bagan 0 v 0 Abahani Krira Chakra; Abahani Krira Chakra 2 v 1 Calcutta Mohammedans.

Semi-finals: Abahani Krira Chakra 2 v 1 East Bengal; Dhaka Mohammedans 1 v 0 Mohun Bagan.

Final: Abahani Krira Chakra 1 v 0 Dhaka Mohammedans.

AURELIO JOINS EURO SQUAD

THE increasing trend among Australians to move to Europe has been extended.

Aurelio Vidmar, a 24-year-old midfielder with Adelaide City, has signed for Kortrijk, who play in the Belgian First Division.

Vidmar's 20-year-old brother Tony, also an international, is likely to follow, but not until after next year's Olympic Games.

Paul Okon recently joined a Belgian club, Bruges, who have sold Frank Farina to Italian club Bari, Robbie Slater plays for Lens in France, Graham Arnold has been signed by Roda of Holland, and Vlado Bozinoski is in Portugal, with Sporting Lisbon.

Aussie coach Eddie Thomson said: "I'm glad to see our players making the grade, but we need to ensure that they will be available for the World Cup qualifying games in 1993." Thomson is likely to try to arrange fixtures for the European close season that year.

St George slung out

THE Australian Soccer Federation created a major surprise by omitting the high-profile Sydney club, St. George, from the restructured National Soccer League.

From next season on, members of the League have to meet criteria based on crowd support, managerial competence, playing strength, past record, ground facilities, financial resources and geography.

The latter must have caused St. George's exclusion, for they meet every other requirement comfortably. Last season's competition included six Sydney clubs - a figure obviously regarded as one too many by the ASF.

They decreed that St. George, 1983 champions and tenth at the end of the recently-completed season, were the most expendable of the half-dozen.

The other two casualties from the 1990-91 season, Sunshine George Cross and Wollongong Macedonia, occupied the two bottom places.

The discarded trio have been replaced by West Adelaide, Brisbane United and Newcastle Austral.

West Adelaide, one of the League's founder members in 1977 and champions a year later, remained a competitive force until first relegated in 1987.

Westad's second stint in the League lasted just one term (1989-90) but, with three members of Australia's successful youth squad in their ranks and several seasoned performers to complement them, they should do better the next time around.

Brisbane United's progress is going to be followed with particular interest.

Queensland's previous representatives in the League, Brisbane City and Brisbane Lions, are remembered primarily for their mediocre playing records and pitiful attendances.

Hopefully the newly-formed composite side will unite the state's fragmented soccer community, produce results to reflect the true strength (as proved by their representative side's success of recent years) and draw regular support akin to the numbers attracted to Perry Park for inter-state clashes.

Attendance

Newcastle was Australian soccer's "boom town" in the late seventies, when the old Newcastle K.B. United club broke several attendance records. But the loss of a major sponsorship led, in turn, to severe financial problems, the defections of many leading players, relegation and the club's eventual extinction.

JAPAN ARE KIRIN CUP KINGS

JAPANESE soccer experienced its greatest moment since Kunishege Kamamoto and Co. won bronze medals in the 1968 Olympics when the national side captured the Kirin Cup for the first time.

The triumph was crowned by a stunning 4-0 demolition of FA Cup holders Tottenham Hotspur before an ecstatic 45,000 crowd at Tokyo's National Stadium.

Japan totally dominated lethargic opponents, and opened the scoring after two minutes when midfielder Tsuyoshi Kitazawa's superbly judged header found the left hand corner of Ian Walker's goal.

Six minutes later, a superb passing movement ended with the unmarked Kazuyoshi Miura scoring the second. Miura then put the match beyond Spurs' reach with a magnificent solo goal four minutes before half-time.

Japan completed Tottenham's humiliation in the 66th minute when defender Yugi Sakakura hammered the ball home from close range after Tetsuya Asano hit a post.

Earlier, Japan defeated Thailand 1-0 and Vasco da Gama from Rio 2-1 in the quadrangular tournament. Vasco finished runners-up.

The Kirin Cup, begun in 1978, has been staged annually since with the exceptions of 1989 and 1990.

Former Asian Champions' Cup winners Yomiuri of Tokyo will feature in next season's competition, having regained their Japanese Soccer League crown.

They finished seven points ahead of Nissan, despite losing their last two games.

Nissan, pursuing a third successive title, lost only two matches all season but drew nine, and placed far too much reliance upon Brazilian Carlos Renato for their goals.

Renato netted ten times, to finish top scorer alongside Yotsuka Tetsuya of Yomiuri and Honda's Kitazawa Go.

In contrast to Nissan, Yomiuri had several players able to hit the net regularly, including Takeda Nobuhiro, with nine goals.

Yomiuri, the prime force in Japan's move towards professionalism, can look forward to their next Champions' Cup campaign with confidence.

FOR ONCE Europe was overshadowed by Asia, Africa and Oceania during the latest edition of the President's Cup in South Korea.

The European challenge fizzled out at the semi-final stage when USSR's "B" team were defeated 2-1 by Egypt. The Old World's other representatives, Malta, were eliminated in the qualifying rounds, during which the Egyptians hammered them 5-2.

In the second semi-final South Korea defeated Australia, up to then the most impressive team in the tournament, 4-3 in a penalty shoot-out. Neither team had managed to score over the preceding 120 minutes.

Although Egypt were devoid of their European-based professionals, they still had several players from Italia '90, and went into the final as favourites.

But they were on the back foot throughout against the determined host nation, and goals by Kim Sujjoo, scored late in both halves, gave the Koreans a deserved victory.

No chance . . . Tottenham keeper Walker beaten yet again in Tokyo.

Supremacy

KUALA LUMPUR'S City Hall reasserted their supremacy in Malaysian club soccer with a third FAM Cup success in four years.

In the final they defeated Selangor League champions Public Bank 1-0 before a 12,000 crowd at Merdeka Stadium.

The City Hall defence marshalled by veteran international Serbegath Singh, was rarely threatened, whereas Public Bank always looked vulnerable to quick counter-attacks.

Only excellent goalkeeping by Karel Stromsik restricted the holders to Saidim Osman's 20th-minute winner.

RANGERS gained revenge for their defeat by Sunbeam in last year's Foster's Super League Grand Final by defeating the holders 3-2 in the 1991 edition, to become national champion of the Solomon Islands.

Veteran midfielder Dudley Natei scored twice in the first half.

Robert Mark pulled Sunbeam level with two goals within five minutes of the restart, but Hedley Toata grabbed the winner with three minutes remaining.

SOUTH CHINA underlined their dominance of Hong Kong domestic soccer when defeating Laisun 2-1 in the FA Cup final.

Livewire midfielder Leslie Santos was the star for South China, the champions, scoring two first-half goals.

PAUL MOON WS

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A NARROWING GAP

But soccer's progress is still slow in New Zealand

BY PAUL MOON

International ANALYSIS

CERI EVANS is New Zealand's most-capped international with 71 appearances. It's a costly business for Oxford United defender Evans. But he doesn't mind. He's proud to stand up and be counted for his country.

Evans did just that twice to great effect against England. And if the results were not sensational - a 1-0 defeat in Auckland to a late Gary Lineker goal, then a 2-0 defeat in Wellington with Stuart Pearce and David Hirst the scorers - the Kiwis did not let themselves down.

"The international gap is narrowing," says Evans. "The third-rate countries of 10 years ago are now getting decent results. We're not overawed any more at playing England.

"For our part-timers this was their big day because we don't get the opportunity to face top-class sides very often.

"But New Zealand football has picked up by a mile over the last 10 or 15 years - ever since we got to the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain."

Evans adds: "Once we saw Australia running England close a few days earlier, we were hoping for the best and we knew that, if things went well for us in the first 15 or 20 minutes, we might seize something from it.

"That's how it nearly went because we could have been in the lead at one stage. We caused England a lot of trouble from set- pieces and we had a great opportunity in the first half. But teams like us, in our position, need to put them away to make it interesting."

Despite Evans's pride, it is unfortunate that England's football visit came low on a local list of sporting priorities - behind Rugby Union, the world netball championship, the Rugby League series against Australia, the World Cricket Cup and the national basketball league.

The visit marked the local FA's centenary. But celebrations were low-key and local experts knew that England were far from full strength.

Reflection

The NZFA were founded in 1891 but the national team did not venture forth until 1923, when Australia were defeated 3-1. That was not a reflection of things to come. Between 1927 and 1951, for example, the Kiwis played 19 internationals, and lost them all.

The immigration programme of the 1950s and 1960s gave the domestic game greater depth and provided the foundations for the progress of the 1970s and 1980s.

A national championship was set up in 1970. Competition previously had been in local leagues, irregular inter-provincial fixtures and the Chatham Cup (a trophy presented by the crew of a British ship, HMS Chatham, in 1922 and contested as a nationwide knockout).

In 1970 New Zealand first entered the World Cup qualifiers. In 1979 Australia were beaten for the first time in a quarter of a century, and Mexico were thrashed 4-0 a year later.

In 1982 New Zealand's national team reached their greatest point with qualification for the World Cup finals in Spain.

The all-whites travelled 55,000 miles round Asia and the Pacific en route, playing 15 matches over nine months. Eventually a 2-1 victory over China in a play-off in Singapore provided the tickets for the finals.

New Zealand, predictably, were technically outclassed in Spain. But they showed plenty of spirit despite three defeats - 5-2 to Scotland, 3-0 to the Soviet Union and 4-0 to Brazil.

Unfortunately, that success was not a springboard to further progress. A lack of promotion, a string of controversies and various other problems led to declining interest.

New Zealand's most famous player is the 1982 World Cup striker Wynton Rufer, who plays for Werder Bremen in Germany. He has had problems of his own over the years with the NZFA and was not chosen to face England.

Rufer's up and down career shows that even though the gap may be narrowing, as Ceri Evans says, soccer in the land of the Long White Cloud still has a long, long way to go.

THE MANAGER

Ian MARSHALL. Scotland-born. Moved to New Zealand with Christchurch in 1966. Coached Miramar Rangers for ten seasons, winning six championship titles, before moving to Christchurch United. In four seasons he won two more championships and reached the Chatham Cup final three times in a row - winning in 1989. Appointed New Zealand manager two years ago.

Assistants are Steve Sumner, the 1982 World Cup forward, and former Football League wanderer Keith Pritchett (ex-Watford, QPR, Brentford, Wolves, Blackpool and Doncaster).

THE PLAYERS

Clint GOSLING. Goalkeeper. Aged 29, with 44 caps. Sydney Olympic. Born in New Zealand, made his national team debut against Selangor of Malaysia in 1978. Previous clubs include Eastern Suburbs. Blockhouse Bay and Mount Wellington in New Zealand and Sydney City and Newcastle in Australia. Was in the World Cup qualifying squad in 1985 as understudy to Frank Van Hattum, whom he has since replaced.

Grant SCHOFIELD. Goalkeeper. Aged 27, with five caps. Mount Wellington. NZ-born, played junior football for the Cornwall club in Auckland. Joined Papatoetoe in 1984, transferred to top club Manurewa in 1986 and joined Mount Wellington last year. In the last two seasons he has played for the club pipped to the national title on the last day. First called up for the national squad against the Soviet Union in 1986.

Tony FERRIS. Defender. Aged 29, with 19 caps. Mount Maunganui. Spent nine years with Distillery in Northern Ireland before emigrating. Joined Mount Maunganui in 1986 and made his NZ debut in 1988. Dropped, then recalled last year for the King's Cup tournament in Thailand.

Ceri EVANS. Defender. Aged 27 with 71 caps. Oxford United (England). NZ-born, played for Wellington Diamond United, Dunedin City and Christchurch United before trying his luck in the Football League. Former youth international who has been representing New Zealand at one level or another since 1984. Player of the Year in 1987, and moved to England on a Rhodes Scholarship.

Malcolm DUNFORD. Defender. Aged 28, with 61 caps. Miramar. National captain who made his NZ debut against Fiji in 1984. Has represented New Zealand at under-14, under-19 and senior levels. Entered the national league with Wellington Reps in 1979, then moved to Wellington United in 1982 before joining Miramar last year. Played for New Zealand on the tour to Fiji and England in 1984 and in the 1986 and 1990 World Cup qualifying campaigns.

Michael RIDENTON. Defender. Aged 23, with 14 caps. Mount Wellington. NZ-born. Former youth international who made his national team debut against Taiwan in 1988. Has had a trial with Rotherham.

Rodger GRAY. Defender. Aged 25, with seven caps. Waitakere City. NZ-born, played for Waitemata City, West Auckland and Mount Wellington before joining Waitakere last year. Made his New Zealand debut in a 4-1 defeat by Australia in the last World Cup qualifiers.

Robert IRONSIDE. Defender/midfield. Aged 23, with 33 caps. Sydney Olympic. NZ-born. Former youth international who made his senior debut against Australia in the 1987 Winfield-Tasman series, and was voted Pepsi Young Footballer of the Year. Made his national league debut with North Shore United before moving to Sydney Olympic. Now back in New Zealand on loan with Nelson United during the Australian championship close season.

Ceri Evans challenges England's Brian Deane.

Michael McGARRY. Midfield. Aged 25, with 40 caps. Christchurch United. NZ-born. Played for Mosgiel from the age of seven until he was 17, when he stepped up into senior soccer with Dunedin City. Played in Australia briefly with Sydney Olympic, then returned to Mosgiel and Christchurch. Pepsi Young Footballer of the Year in 1985, made his senior New Zealand debut against Fiji in 1986.

Declan EDGE. Midfield/forward. Aged 25, with 43 caps. Waikato. Malaya-born and played for Shrewsbury Town, Gisborne City, Notts County, Adelaide City, Mount Maunganui, Napier City and Waikato (twice) through last year, switched briefly to Napier and then back again at the start. Played for New Zealand in the 1986 World Cup qualifiers.

Danny HALLIGAN. Midfield. Aged 26, with 39 caps. Christchurch United. Joined in 1987 after spells with junior clubs Nomads and Halswell United. Made his New Zealand debut in the same year, in the Winfield-Tasman series against Australia.

Carl JORGENSEN. Midfield. Aged 26, with one cap. Waitakere City. Just called into the national squad for the first time after the withdrawal of Leyton Orient's Chris Zoricich. Auckland's Player of the Year last term, when he helped Waitakere to the championship.

Brian ROBERTS. Forward. Aged 24, with two caps. Mount Mangaunui. A member of the Reading squad who won the Third Division championship in 1986 before moving to Finland with Mikkeli and Palliogat and to Australia with Sunshine George Cross. Joined Mangaunui three years ago.

Noel BARKLEY. Forward. Aged 30, with 35 caps. Mount Wellington. Made his New Zealand debut against the Soviet Union in 1986. Previously played for Larne and Crusaders in Ireland, and was an Irish youth international. Moved to New Zealand and played for Mount Mangaunui between 1983 and 1986, joining Papatoetoe in 1987 and Mount Wellington in 1988. His 24 goals in 1989 set a championship record.

Fred DE JONG. Forward. Aged 27, with 25 caps. Fortuna Sittard (Holland). Only became available when Fortuna secured Premier Division survival. A robust striker who won honours in New Zealand with Mount Wellington and in Australia with Marconi. Moved to Holland, his father's home country, two years ago.

Vaughan COVENEY. Forward. Aged 19, with no caps. Miramar Rangers. Surprise selection because of his limited experience. Coveney made his debut only last year with relegation-bound Waterside-Karori. A member of the New Zealand side in the Olympic qualifiers.

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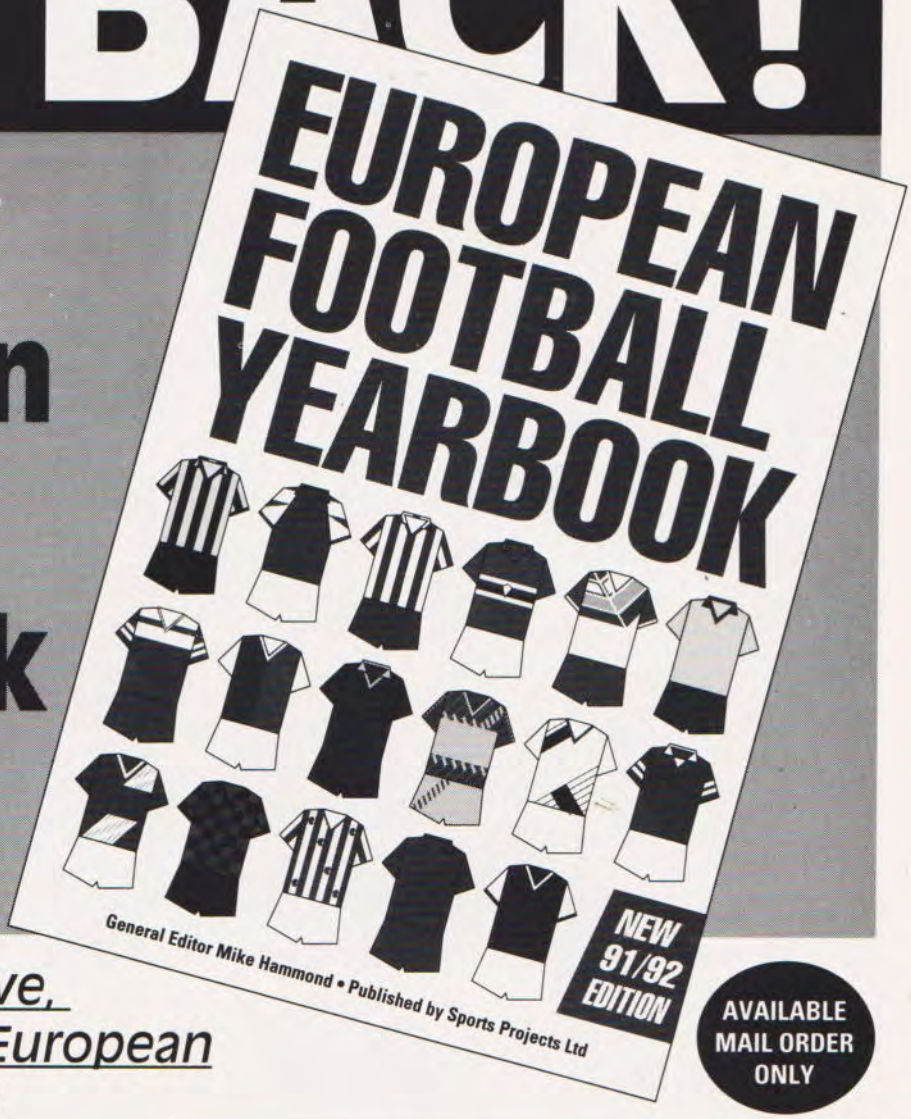

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THE KEIR RADNEDGE COLUMN

Magazine Sports Writer of the Year

KEEP SALES FOR THE SUMMER

NOW that, courtesy of the High Court, the Super League is looming, here's an idea which the Blueprint has apparently overlooked - but which could work wonders in helping improve the game's image.

Ban transfers during the season.

The idea may be considered revolutionary here. But it is the norm in most other countries. The FA looked long and hard at other countries' soccer in preparing to resist the Football League in the courts. Let them consider learning the transfer market lesson as well.

Take Italy as an example.

In Italy transfers are permitted only within defined deadlines during the close season. Players are bought and sold, borrowed and loaned. The operation is carried through with the temperamental frenzy one might expect. But it works. By early August each coach knows the squad with which he must face the new campaign.

And where anomalies have arisen, these can be sorted out when the transfer market reopens briefly at the end of October.

One challenge this system presents is to the team manager. Success or failure is laid more squarely on his shoulders. He cannot run to the cheque book after a couple of bad results: he has to work all the more intensely with his players on sorting out the faults. Also, the team manager in Italy can work more closely with his players than many English managers who spend half their week driving round the country spying on possible transfer targets.

How can one man properly prepare his team when he knows he must drive 200 miles after lunch to watch a promising 18-year-old in some reserve game at the other end of the motorway?

Then, there is the media. Not an aspect to be dismissed lightly. Half of the media coverage of soccer in the UK is taken up with transfer speculation, NOT with the game itself. Much of that transfer speculation is fuelled by those agents who "sell" their players' unrest to fuel the tabloid soccer war.

Technical and educational coverage of the game is at a premium. Serious, contentious issues are overshadowed by the transfer market manipulations of managers, players and their advisers - who play this particular media weakness for all it's worth.

Stop transfers during the season and maybe the media will have to look at the reality of the game being played.

Every English manager who has tried his luck abroad will tell you the same story. The media in other countries demands a much more sophisticated two-way discussion of the game, its technique and its tactics.

That, surely, is worth a place in any Blueprint for the Future.

Beardsley signs for Everton, one of many moves during the close season.

BACK ON SCREEN

EUROSPORT, as satellite sports aficionados will have noticed, is back on the air.

How have they managed it? After all, it was only a few months back that the withdrawal of Rupert Murdoch's cash support and a European commission complaint had blanked out the screens.

Now all has been revealed by senior officials of the top French channel, TF1.

The Eurosport name survives from the previous operation and programming is still available through the European Broadcasting Union. But that is all.

TF1 can provide the financial investment the over-stretched Murdoch empire could not. But TF1, by virtue of its EBU membership, provides Eurosport with the 'proper' access to EBU programming.

This was what it lacked before and which upset its other, non-EBU competitors, such as Screensport. They were furious that they could not compete on equal terms. The European Commission supported their complaint - just as the European Commission has formally approved the new arrangement through TF1.

Jean-Claude Dassier, sports director of TF1, was not ready to commit the revived channel to the midweek soccer round-ups provided by the original Eurosport. But plenty of soccer seems guaranteed.

An omission to make you cringe

HAVE you heard of the Cringe Factor ?

It's when a friend, or acquaintance or colleague commits a blunder of such enormous proportions that YOU feel embarrassed for them.

Such as ... the FA forgetting to honour the 25th anniversary of England's 1966 World Cup triumph. No excuse could stand up and, honorably at the least, few attempts have been made to produce one.

One or two of England's victorious side, Alan Ball notably, have whinged through the columns of the tabloid press as if the entire nation owed them some sort of life pension for that famous victory in July, 1966.

I don't believe that, for a minute. At a basic level, "all" they did was win a football match. That was, after all, their profession.

But World Cup-winners in other countries would not have been forgotten on their anniversary. Some of the great winners of the past have built entire media and business careers directly on their achievement. An obvious example has been West Germany's 1954 skipper, Fritz Walter - still feted and acclaimed and admired nearly 40 years after snatching the Jules Rimet Trophy away from Ferenc Puskas's Hungarians.

Professional football can be a cruel game. Today's winner is tomorrow's loser. That's why, for example, football books possess such a short "shelf life." In the time it takes to publish, the hero may have been transferred, may have broken a leg, may have been forgotten.

Sirens

How interesting that only one member of England's 1966 winners, Jack Charlton, has gone on to achieve major managerial success. Does that say something about the lack of aftercare available to top players; or does it say more about the sirens of success?

At least, the fans and the media did not forget 1966 And All That. It's even given rise to one of the more testing pub quiz questions. Who were the OTHER members of England's World Cup squad?

(Answer on opposite page).

England's forgotten heroes of 1966.

DAVID PLATT agreed to move to Bari for several reasons. One, quite correctly, was the money. Another was the efforts Bari had made to build a team worthy of complementing his talents. The figure Platt himself quoted in interviews was an investment of £12million. But was that investment quite all it seems in a country were uncapped midfielders are routinely sold for £3million each? And, did it include the £5.5million Platt fee?

Fortunato . . . £2.2million

Progna . . . £1million.

Calcaterra . . . £600,000.

THE TRUE PLATT PRICE

Here's the Bari shopping list:

* **Daniele Fortunato**, 28-year-old midfielder from Juventus. Price: £2.2million.
* **Frank Farina**, 27-year-old Australian striker from Belgian club Brugge. Price: £1.5million.
* **Ivan Rizzardi**, 24-year-old reserve full-back from Napoli. Price: £1.2million.
* **Domenico Progna**, experienced 28-year-old sweeper from first division Atalanta. Price: £1million.
* **Fabio Calcaterra**, 26-year-old stopper from relegated Cesena. Price: £600,000.
* **Nicola Caccia**, 21-year-old winger from third division Empoli. Price: £550,000.
* **Carlo Sassarini**, 20-year-old winger from third division Spezia. Price: £400,000.
* **Gian Paolo Manighetti**, 22-year-old midfielder from third division Piacenza. Price: £400,000.

Total: £7,850,000 on a bunch of eight players, only one of whom had played international football and three of whom come from the third division. It is the addition of the Platt fee which lifts Bari's expenditure beyond £12million; up to £13,350,000, to be precise.

This is not the end of the mathematical exercise.
Bari also sold the following players:

* **Pietro Maiellaro**, 27-year-old midfielder to Fiorentina. Price: £2million.
* **Massimo Carrera**, 27-year-old central defender to Juventus. Price: £900,000.
* **Giacomo Di Cara**, 21-year-old full-back to Pescara. Price: £400,000.
* **Fabio Lupo**, 26-year-old midfielder to Ancona. Price: £400,000.
* **Florin Raducioiu**, 21-year-old Romanian international centre forward on loan to Verona. Price: £200,000.

Total: £3.9million raised.
Thus, Bari had, in real terms, spent "only" £3,950,000 before they sealed the Platt deal. The England midfielder, far from being - as appeared - icing on the cake, cost much more than all the rest of the new men put together.

Platt with his new employer, Bari President Matarrese.

OSCAR WINNER

OSCAR RUGGERI may not be the world's most skilled of defenders, but the man's got a sort of rugged honesty to him.

Ruggeri, Argentina's Copa America-winning skipper, was furious at being elbowed in the face by Brazil's Careca III. Not for the reasons you might expect.

Ruggeri says: "He was a coward. He waited until both the referee and I had turned our backs.

If a player hits me full in the face, that's OK. But to wait until a man has his back turned, that's disgraceful."

WORLD CUP QUIZ ANSWER

The team, of course, was: **Banks, Cohen, Wilson, Stiles, J Charlton, Moore, Ball, Hunt, B Charlton, Hurst, Peters.** The reserves were: Ron Springett, Peter Bonetti, Jimmy Armfield, Gerry Byrne, Ron Flowers, Norman Hunter, Terry Paine, Jimmy Greaves, George Eastham, John Connelly and Ian Callaghan.

Eric Batty names his World Eleven

SOUTHALL for SHILTON BLANC for BARESI

THERE are two big changes this year to my World XI: the omission of Shilton and Baresi in the defence.

Age has caught up with both of them, and while Shilton is now the goalkeeper coach for the England squad, and seeking a job in management, Baresi is content to stand back and cover, where once he was continuously breaking forward to create.

The legs will not carry him back as fast as they did earlier.

Southall has been an outstanding goalkeeper for several years built like the side of a house, excellent on the high cross, full of courage, rarely guilty of an error.

He also produces more than his fair quota of saves that are in the range of "nearly impossible".

I have retained the shape of my defence, even though in England, all the league clubs continue to field two full-backs. They claim that using a "libero" allows their full-backs more scope to attack — but I would rather see two extra players further forward.

Traditional full-backs can never attack with the same degree of skill and accuracy of pass that a natural midfield player can.

In addition, the English use their attacking backs to provide high crosses from the flanks, whereas I prefer to see the initial breakthrough made around the half-way line, and forward passes dropped in for the feet.

Even on the flanks, a player cutting in from the corner flag; picking out a well-placed colleague and pulling the ball back to the edge of the penalty area for a first time shot is far more productive — and better football.

Prosinecki first caught my attention when he went on as a late substitute at Wembley, the last time Yugoslavia played there.

He was used in a roving, attacking role, and the runs he made "looking" for a penetrating pass showed his vision.

With Red Star, Prosinecki was used more as the universal provider, and he is clearly a brilliant player for one so young. Attracting the attention of all the top continental clubs speaks volumes for his ability, and unlike most of the gifted players who can beat a man, Prosinecki knows instinctively WHEN he has created something, and despatches a quick, accurate, controllable pass.

Martin Vasquez has been a quality player since his second season with Real Madrid, another infant prodigy, but Savicevic blossomed last year.

Savicevic was always a gifted player, and scored a few goals, but seemed to enjoy dribbling too much. Now he has learned to use his technique economically and more productively in terms of scoring.

Pancev and his left foot have caught the eye in the past year, and his talents in front of goal brought him so many offers from Italy and Spain that he too could have chosen his club and asked his own price. But much has been added to his game in terms of controlling the ball that could not be dealt with first-time, and using other parts of his body, taking one touch to make the ball "hittable", and then hitting it.

There was one classic goal, with Pancev "killing" a driven, high ball with his head, then sweeping the ball into the net before it touched the ground.

Hughes also scored some special goals, hit with power and accuracy.

At his best he has so much to offer, for his aggression in tackling back, after a move breaks down, and his ability to show himself, receive the ball, play it off first time and break, makes him an outstanding target for combined play.

Frustration with himself has often pegged back Hughes and he lacked consistency last season but there were distinct signs that the best is re-emerging.

There were other players worthy of a mention. Papin, the darling of France, is one who will earn a place if he learns to create more for others, and Blanc earned his place ahead of Belodedic (Red Star), only because he also scored goals at regular intervals.

Berti of Inter is a much improved player, with a tremendous work-rate, and also beginning to score more often than in the past.

Mihajlovic, left midfield for Red Star, is another outstanding player who was close. Klinsmann has improved a little in his play with the rest of the Inter team; and Matthaus is not running with the ball so much, which makes them better players.

But progress has been so slow, I think that could be why Giovanni Trappatoni decided to return to Juventus.

Basile Boli.

Darko Pancev.

Ricardo Ferri.

Martin Vasquez.

Dejan Savicevic.

After the triumph, the exodus

IT WAS the same old story once Argentina had landed the Copa America — the South American championship for the first time in 32 years.

Hardly had they completed their lap of honour around Santiago's Estadio Nacional than half the squad were negotiating transfers abroad.

Only three of Argentina's 22-strong squad — Claudio Caniggia (Atalanta), Diego Simeone (Pisa) and Fiorentina-bound midfielder Diego Latorre — began the continental showdown with European contracts in their back pockets. But within days of the final whistle after the climactic 2-1 win over Colombia many more were following their example.

*Goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea, the shoot-out king at last year's World Cup finals, has joined French Second Division club Brest.

*Striker Gabriel Batistuta, the tournament's six-goal top scorer, has signed to join Latorre at Fiorentina.

*Dario Franco, a two-goal hero in the stormy 3-2 defeat of Brazil, is joining Spain's Zaragoza.

*Midfielder Leonardo Astrada also is moving to Spain, signing for Santander.

*Centre-back Sergio Vazquez is close to agreeing a contract with another Spanish club — Sevilla.

*Midfielder Leonardo Rodriguez, Argentina's most consistently impressive player at the finals, turned down offers from Chile's Colo Colo and Spain's Tenerife to sign a contract with Marseille.

*On top of all those, reserve goalkeeper Alejandro Lanari is off to UNAM of Mexico City.

Like Italia '90, it was a mediocre tournament which had its moments of drama and excitement, but was ultimately disappointing.

That is the unanimous verdict being passed on Chile '91 by locals and visitors alike, a verdict I would agree with wholeheartedly.

Argentina's victorious skipper, Oscar Ruggeri, is in the World XI.

Moreover, for much of the watching world it confirmed many negative stereotypes of South American football: sometimes disorganised, often violent, usually defensive and inevitably bad-tempered.

With regard to the football itself, nothing special to report. It is just as hard to select an outstanding player as to pick the most attractive match, just the same as at Italia '90.

Few individuals stood out above the generalised mediocrity of hard-running midfielders and brutal defensive markers. Apart from Argentina, no team played consistently organised and competent — let alone attractive — football.

Ecuador failed to make the final round because of their poor finishing, Uruguay because of their arch-conservatism.

Colombia failed chiefly because they couldn't adapt to a heavy pitch, Chile because of the loss of Yanez, their only forward with composure.

Brazil went home bemoaning their bad luck, as always. If only they'd drawn with Argentina, if only Colombia had put a second past Goycochea.

Embattled coach Falcao, however, was honest enough to admit that it would have been rough justice if Brazil had sneaked it, because of their dreadful displays in the first round against Uruguay and Colombia.

Conflicts

Rather than bad luck, I reckon Brazil had extremely good luck to end up second, after their conflicts and disorganisation both on and off the field seemed guaranteed to bring them another early elimination.

Which leaves us with Argentina, like West Germany last year the consistent tournament favourites and obviously the "right" winner. I'd list four main reasons for their triumph.

Firstly, a far better organised set-up than the rest, masterminded by a manager who exuded common sense, confidence and tranquility.

Not for Basile the personalised polemics of Falcao, nor the tactical naivety of Chilean Salah or the tantrums of Colombian Garcia.

Secondly, the excellent series of preparation matches since February, two wins and five draws for a team of home-based youngsters later to be refined by the inclusion of Italian exiles Caniggia and Simeone.

Thirdly, Argentina had by far the most competent defence, epitomised by the ruthless, cynical, occasionally brutal efficiency of centre-backs Ruggeri and Vazques. Basualdo's penetrating bursts down the right were a bonus to his own defensive solidity.

Fourthly, their attacking precision. Perhaps they didn't attack as often as other teams, prepared to sit back and wait for the moment to counter, but when they did attack, it was certainly effective, as the statistic of 16 goals in seven matches proves.

As I write this just an hour after leaving a euphoric reception for the players at the Argentine Embassy, it's difficult to remain objective.

It would be easy to be lyrical about the intuition, inspiration and imagination of Simeone, Rodriguez, Caniggia and Batistuta.

They are far from being world-established stars, neither have they as yet ripped apart the best defences in the world.

All I can say at the moment is that no defence in the Copa came anywhere near to containing this vastly talented young quartet.

Leaving aside the workmanlike efficiency of Astrada and Franco, it was this quartet who did so much to change the mean, negative image left behind by Bilardo's tedious team in Italy just a year ago.

Chilean fans will be disappointed with third place after all the expectations raised by Colo Colo's Libertadores Cup triumph.

The local organisers, however, are delighted by the profits produced by good crowds — largely due to Chile making the second round — and the selling of worldwide television and advertising rights.

In addition, the fairly competent organisation of the Copa will help Chile's bid to persuade FIFA to revoke their ban from the USA '94 qualifiers.

Two of Argentina's Copa America winners, Goycochea and Ruggeri, are in the World XI, managed by Bobby Robson and Bora Milutinovic, for the UNICEF charity match against Germany in Munich on October 8.

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S. America

BY ERIC WEIL

Newell's: L to R back: Berizzo, Martino, Scoponi, Pochettino, Grafagnoli, Fullana. Front: Saldana, Domizzi, Llop, Cozzoni, Zamora.

GRIFFA GETS HIS REWARD

NEWELL'S Old Boys of Rosario won the national title for the third time (and second in four years) by beating Boca Juniors on penalties in the final between the winners of the two rounds.

Newell's won the first round before Christmas, and Boca won the second.

If the championship had been played all in one, as up to this year, Boca would have won - they obtained 51 points in the 38 games of the two rounds, against 48 by Newell's.

Boca have not won the title since 1981, when Diego Maradona last played for them.

They continually buy and sell players to make money and maintain the interest of their fans by getting "names" into the side.

Newell's Old Boys, on the other hand, work best with players brought up through junior divisions in the charge of Bernardo Griffa, a former player and outstanding coach who, however, has no wish to step up into the First Division.

Their current first team are all products of their junior divisions and so is their current coach, Marcelo Bielsa - only 36, a former player and great fan of the club, who also cut his coaching teeth under Griffa.

Bielsa, a great student of the game, thinks he is the first Argentine to regularly watch videos of top European games which have been sent to him for years by a friend in Madrid.

Erred

He goes for attacking play and continually tries new variations, which make his team so exciting.

But, he says, the major reason for their success was more off the field than on it - the excellent character of the players, their friendship, sporting competition for places (having known each other for so long) and their will to win.

The Argentine FA erred by fixing the finals to be played when the national team were in Chile for the South American Championship.

This left Boca without their scoring partnership of Gabriel Batistuta and Diego Latorre, while Newell's lost defender Fernando Gamboa and half-back Dario Franco, who has since moved to Spain.

The clubs were given permission to bring in guest players to replace them, Boca borrowed Gaucho (this year's Libertadores Cup top scorer) from Brazil's Flamengo and Gerardo Reinoso from Chile's Universidad Catolica, but Newell's made do with their own players and replaced their absentees better.

One of the replacements was playmaker Gerardo Martino, who helped them win the first round but was then loaned to Tenerife (Spain). He was sorely missed in the second round, when Newell's finished 12 points from the top, and he had to go off injured halfway through the second leg of the final.

While versatile veteran Juan Llop was another outstanding man for the champions, Bielsa would not single out other players, with all the newcomers doing his job.

In the finals, each team won the home leg 1-0. In Rosario it was all close marking, friction and numerous interruptions, with Berizzo scoring three minutes after half-time.

Denied

The second leg, at muddy Boca Stadium, was decided by Reinoso's goal nine minutes from the end, although Newell's were denied at least one penalty.

Two worn-out teams went into extra time and nothing else happened. Then Boca's shooting boots deserted them completely for the shoot-out.

Scopini saved the first two shots and was beaten by the next, but the fourth went over the bar and Newell's, who netted their first three penalties, were champions.

River Plate are still ahead among the title winners in 60 professional championships, with 18, followed by Boca Juniors 12, Independiente 9, Racing Club (Avellaneda) 6, San Lorenzo 5, Newell's Old Boys 3, Estudiantes de La Plata 2, Chacarita Juniors, Huracan, Quilmes, Argentinos Juniors and Rosaria Central one each.

Action (right) from the second leg of the Argentinian national championship final, Martino of Newell's Old Boys slides the ball away from Sonora of Boca Juniors.

Bochini bows out after 638 games

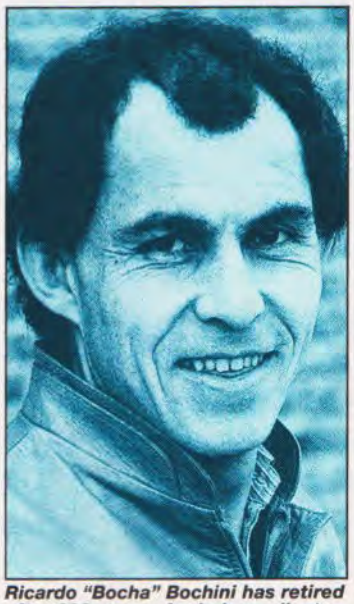
RICARDO BOCHINI, the former Argentine international and Independiente midfielder, finally retired at the end of the season.

Bochini, 37, and still an idol with Independiente fans, had not been playing for two months due to a recurring injury, and felt he was not giving his club their money's worth.

The fans call him "Bocha" - linking his name with the word meaning "big head" (he literally has a big head, but is not big headed).

He went to Independiente as a youngster straight from his native Zarate, and sprang to prominence in 1973 when he scored a great goal against Juventus goalkeeper Dino Zoff.

That gave his team a 1-0 win and their first Intercontinental Cup.



Ricardo "Bocha" Bochini has retired after 638 games for Independiente.

Continued

He continued to play for the club all through his career and set an Argentine record of 638 games for the same team.

During that time he helped in many titles (First Division, Libertadores, Inter-American and Intercontinental cups) and become one of the few real Argentine stars never to move to a foreign club.

He already runs a soccer school for boys and says he would also like to take up coaching.

Pedro Catalano, Argentine goalkeeper of Deportivo Espanol of Buenos Aires, has beaten the record for the longest streak of uninterrupted appearances in Argentina - 202 - and, at 39, has just had his contract renewed.

His record would have been 241, he says, but at the beginning of the 1985 -86 season he was suspended for one match which ruined his run.

The Japanese have signed three more Argentinian players, following Osvaldo Escuder's move to Mitsubishi.

Carlos MacAllister, who has Irish parents, has gone from Estudiantes to Toshiba, and Oscar Acosta (Velez Sarsfield) and Silvio Rudman (Independiente) have gone to Ana Yokohoma.

International midfielder Dario Franco has left Newell's Old Boys for Zaragoza in Spain, and two other internationals have gone to Lugano in Switzerland.

They were Carlos Tapia and Alfredo Graciani, both of Boca Juniors.

A fourth international Sergio Berti, has moved from River Plate to Italy, and joined Parma.

Two close finishes

URUGUAY: The championship went into recess after 10 games with Nacional leading by a point from Central Espanol, with one game in hand.

The already impoverished clubs owe the government two million dollars of unpaid social security.

PARAGUAY: Libertadores Cup finalists Olimpia won their first five games before losing 2-1 to newly-promoted Cerro Cora, who were joint second with Libertad. Champions Cerro Porteno were fourth, two points from the top.

EL SALVADOR: Luis Angel Firpo deservedly beat Aguila 1-0 in a title play-off after both teams had tied on points and goal difference in the four-team final round.

MEXICO: Atlante returned to the First Division with a 9-8 penalty shoot-out victory over Pachuca, after the promotion finals had ended 2-2 on aggregate. Irapuato are relegated.

GUATEMALA: Champions Comunicaciones top group A by four points after an 8-0 victory over Tipografia Nacional. Marcelo Bauza scored four.

HONDURAS: Real Espana finished top of the championship first round.

BRINDISI QUITS

BARCELONA qualified for the final round of the championship in Ecuador, but lost their coach Miguel Angel Brindisi.

After the club qualified for the last stage by finishing top, Brindisi announced his decision to move to the Canary Islands and take over as coach of Las Palmas, in the Spanish League.

Nacional, Liga Deportiva, Universitaria and newcomers Valdez also reached stage two.

Liga were strengthened by Uruguayan striker Luis Acosta, who played for Barcelona last season.

Emelec, dissatisfied by not making the top four, dismissed their Argentine coach, Nito Veiga, and his compatriots, PT coach Dardo Valenzuela and midfielder Juan Meza. Uruguayan Angel Castelnoble is the new coach.

Pele in bomb scare

A BOMB was found on a plane carrying three former Brazilian internationals to Tokyo for a sponsorship presentation.

Pele, Socrates and Leao had boarded a Japan Airlines aircraft at Sao Paulo before the bomb was discovered, as take-off time approached, in a Chinese passenger's luggage.

The passenger was detained by police, but denied any knowledge of the bomb, and was later released.

MENOTTI FOR MEXICO

A NEW coach has taken over the Mexican national team - Cesar Luis Menotti, who took Argentina to victory in the 1978 World Cup.

He replaces Manuel Lapuenta, who resigned recently after a surprise defeat by the United States.

Menotti's appointment is likely to lead to an upsurge of interest in the national team.

Mexico were banned from the 1990 World Cup after using an over-age player in the World Junior Championships, but Federation president Francisco Ibarra says the new coach's first task is to ensure the country's qualification for the 1994 tournament in the USA.

Argentina won the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, but by then Menotti had been replaced by Carlos Bilardo.

Tuca, the player who scored the goal that settled last season's Mexican championship race, has retired to take over as coach at his club, UNAM.

Miguel Mejia Baron has moved to another First Division club, Monterrey, so Tuca - full name Ricardo Ferreti de Oliveira - is switching roles.

COLOMBIA

FOLLOW THAT...IF YOU CAN

BY KEITH SMITH

FOOTBALL is a game where the outcome depends on scoring more goals than the opposition. But a new system of evaluating games is being introduced where other factors are considered to produce a final points total.

The system is being tried in Colombia, it runs alongside (but does not replace) the more traditional formula, and is supposed to work as follows:

*Six points are awarded for each goal scored.
*Four points for a converted penalty.
*Three points for an unsuccessful penalty or for a shot on target.
*Two points for a corner or for a shot off target.
*One point for recovering possession of the ball, for a throw-in and for each offside.
*Three points deducted for a sending-off.
*Two points taken away for a booking.
*One point deducted for each foul committed and for each possession given away.

The whole scheme is part of a theme of "total quality" taken up by the Colombian League (Dimayor) and its president, Jorge Correa Pastrana.

"It offers the fans an interesting theme about the championship and the detailed performance of each of the 15 clubs," says Correa.

"The statistics are a very good way of judging the form of a team. Americans do a similar thing, with baseball, basketball and American football."

Produced

Two statisticians will be on hand at each match to compile the necessary information.

Simulation results have produced figures in the range of 100 points per game for each side, giving final scores more akin to basketball rather than football.

Each result will be published in the Colombian media the day after the game, with a league table and a trophy for the club with the most victories.

With the World Cup coming up in the United States perhaps FIFA will take more than a passing interest in how this idea develops.

There is a new city among the ranks of Colombian professional football, thanks to an unusual decision by the Union Magdalena club of Santa Marta.

Poor attendances and general indifference in the small Atlantic coast town led club president Eduardo Davila to transfer the whole club's operation along the coast to Cartagena, three hours south-west of Santa Marta, where the club will play in an 8,000 capacity stadium.

Cartagena has never had a professional football side of its own, but Magdalena will change their name to Real Cartagena.

In Santa Marta, Magdalena had been attracting crowds of around 2,000 this season, an improvement on last but easily the worst in Colombia.

The club, the last non-metropolitan side to win the championship, back in 1968, launched the career of the town's most famous son, Carlos Valderrama.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD REPORTS FROM RIO DE JANEIRO

THE SILLY SEASON STARTS AGAIN

IT'S the silly season in Brazil...again.The national championship has ended and that means football fans will yawn the rest of the year away up to the dreaded state championships.

These competitions have long been abandoned by the public, but TV companies and directors still stubbornly stand by them.

Nearly every one of Brazil's 26 states, plus the Brasilia Federal District, has its own professional competition - Amapa, Rondonia, Roraima and Tocantins are the exceptions.

Some are too big and complicated, such as the one in Sao Paulo, with 28 participants. Some have developed into an interminable battle between the same two clubs, year in and year out.

Andy many, including most North and North-Eastern tournaments, are too small, because the states simply do not have the resources to support more than a handful of even semi-professional clubs.

Reached

In Rio Grande do Norte, the situation has reached rock bottom.

Only five teams took part last year, and the Federation had to go into the deepest, darkest areas virtually begging teams to compete.

But, irrespective of size, nearly all have two things in common — a love of odd formats, and dreadful organisation.

If FIFA are having any difficulty in thinking up a way of organising the next World Cup, a trip to Brazil could provide them with plenty of inspiration.

Joao Havelange would surely love the system used in Sergipe, one of the minor North-Eastern states. Only nine teams are taking part in the Sergipe championship, yet the Federation are managing to make the event drag on from March until December.

The teams begin by playing each other twice, on a league basis. At the end of this, the bottom three are eliminated and the other six start all over again to decide the championship with what the Brazilians like to call a "hexagonal" — a six-team group played on a round robin basis. Just like the World Cup itself, where all those first-round matches are played just to get rid of six teams.

Alagoas, next door, push Sergipe hard in the silliness stakes, dividing the tournament into four stages, each in turn split into two phases (or are they four phases divided each into two stages?) and all this followed by a decisive "quadrangular."

Further north, in Ceara, we find the teams playing in a 1991 championship that actually began in mid-1990, with Fortaleza winning the first "phase". But before any Fortaleza fans start celebrating prematurely, be warned - there are another three "phases" and the decisive quadrangular to come.

Suggested

In contrast, the state of Maranhao is still disputing the 1990 competition, with the fourth stage yet to be played. Sampaio Correa won the first three.

Some have suggested extending the 1990 competition until the end of this year and not bothering with 1991 at all.

The Brazilia federal district championship is being disputed by the same eight teams who took part last year.... and the 14 years before that. In all that time there has been no promotion or relegation, and the event has been dubbed the "comfortable" championship.

But neighbouring Goias emitted a faint signal of hope.

After a 1990 championship with an average attendance of 1,670, the Federation were forced to take action — and opted to run this year's 14 team competition on a normal league basis.

The teams play each other twice, and the champion — incredible though it may seem will be the club with most points!

Botafogo players celebrate their Rio De Janeiro Championship success.

It's all as clear as mud

A summary of the most important championships

SAO PAULO: This is the most competitive of the regional championships, with at least ten clubs who could be described as top-flight.

Interest is diminished, however, because the Sao Paulo Federation insist on including so many minor teams from the interior — this year a record 28 clubs are taking part. And as the number of clubs increases, the format gets more and more curious.

The first round has two groups of 14 (A and B) with the teams playing twice against the other teams in the SAME group. Five from group A and three from group B go through to the second round, which consists of two groups of four.

The winners of each second round group qualify for the final, played over two matches.

All the top clubs from last year are in group A, the excuse being that this gives a chance for teams from the interior to reach round two. One team laughing over this are Sao Paulo FC — they had a disastrous championship last year and as a result will line up in group B with the likes of Sao Carlense, Cantanduvense and Rio Branco. Who?

The title seems likely to go to one of Sao Paulo, Corinthians, Palmeiras, Santos and champions Bragantino.

Group A — Bragantino, Novorizontino, Corinthians, Palmeiras, Santos, Portuguesa, Botafogo, Guarani, XV de Piracicaba, XV de Jau, Ferroviaria, Ituano, Mogi Mirim.

Group B — Sao Paulo, Ponte Preta, Juventus, Sao Jose, Catanduvense, Noreste, Santos Andre, Sao Bento, Internacional Limeira, Uniao Sao Joao, Olimpia, Rio Branco, Marilia, Sao Carlense.

RIO DE JANEIRO: Last year confusion over the rules led to the championship being decided in the boardroom after a "final" when Botafogo and Vasco both claimed to have won and both completed laps of honour, each with a different trophy.

Botafogo were eventually awarded the title.

The Federation, it seems, have not learned. Ignoring the fact that only Flamengo, Fluminense, Botafogo and Vasco ever mount a serious challenge for the title, they have doubled the number of participants to 24 and made the rules even more confused.

The teams are divided into groups of 12, with all the top sides in group A.

In the first round, they play once against the others in the same group. The winner of group A qualifies for the final, the bottom two in group A go into group B and the top two in B go into A.

The second round is a repeat of the first, with the winner of group A meeting the team who won group A in the first round in the final played over two matches. If the same team win group A in both rounds, they become champions automatically.

Botafogo are aiming for a third consecutive win but it is difficult to name any favourites. Campo Grande are doing their best to break the monopoly, and have signed veteran striker Roberto from Vasco.

Group A — Botafogo, Vasco, Flamengo, Fluminense, America (Rio de Janeiro), Bangu, Americano, Itaperuna, America (Tre Rios), Campo Grande, Volta Redonda, Portuguesa.

Group B —Cabofriense, Bonsucesso, Nova Cidade, Friburgense, Goytacaz, Madureira, Mesquita, Olaria, Paduano, Sano Cristovao, Uniao Nacional, Miguel Couto.

MINAS GERAIS: There are 18 teams but nobody seriously believes that any other than Cruzeiro or Atletico Mineiro will win. Their monopoly was last broken in 1971 when America, from Belo Horizonte, were champions.

Sao Paulo's coach Tele Santana has finally thrown off his "jinx" label.

HOT-FOOT TO THE TITLE

Goodbye to Santana's jinx

SAO PAULO'S National Championship triumph finally enabled Tele Santana to throw off the "jinx" label that has been attached to him during the past decade.

In Brazil, someone who brings bad luck is known as a "pe frio", or cold foot. Santana's succession of titles lost when they seemingly had been won had given him a reputation for feet colder than a penguin with frostbite.

The hard-luck story began in the 1982 World Cup, when Santana was manager of that memorable Brazil team. The world agreed the Zico, Socrates, Falcao, Toninho Cerezo and Eder played the best football in the competition, and 130 million Brazilians were getting ready to celebrate the "tetracampeonato" when Paulo Rossi struck.

A series of defensive catastrophes and a Rossi hat-trick meant a 3-2 defeat against Italy in a second-round match.

Insisted

Brazil, with four wins and one defeat, were out. Italy, with three draws and two wins, were in the semi-finals, and went on to win the trophy.

Santana insisted that he was satisfied because "Brazil were acclaimed as the best team by everyone." But the Brazilian public did not share that opinion. Santana's flat was stoned and his wife received threatening phone calls.

Perhaps wisely, Santana then accepted a lucrative contract to manage a Saudi Arabian club, Al Ahli. But in 1985, while on leave, he returned to guide Brazil through the Mexico World Cup qualifiers.

Santana went back to Al Ahli, claiming that nothing would make him manage Brazil in Mexico. One week later he accepted an appointment as Brazil national team manager for the World Cup!

The story was almost the same as in 1982. There was a turbulent start, when Santana took 24 players and was forced to drop two at the last minute. One, Renato, said: "If Tele was dying of thirst in the desert, I would run over him with a lorry."

But Brazil were soon in their stride. The team did not reach the heights of 1982 but by the quarter-finals, with four wins out of four and no goals conceded, they were clear favourites.

Then, once again, it all went wrong. In the quarter-final against France, Brazil scored an early goal, played some of their best football in the competition, but conceded a sloppy equaliser, allowed France back into the game, missed a 75th-minute penalty, and finally lost in the penalty shoot-out.

Santana again took plenty of stick, especially for letting the half-fit Zico take the penalty only a few minutes after going on as substitute.

Santana had a brief rest before taking over at Atletico Mineiro for the 1987 Brazilian championship. Atletico won the first two stages of the competition which, if the tournament had been decided on points, would have given them the title there and then.

But under typically Brazilian rules, the competition went to a play-off and Atletico were knocked out by Flamengo in the semi-final.

Santana left Atletico saying that he was abandoning football for good. But, as before, he changed his mind, joining Flamengo in 1988 and taking them to the final of the Rio championship the following year, only to lose out to Botafogo.

Shortly afterwards, he was on his way again following a dressing room row with Renato, furious at a (deserved) half-time substitution.

After again announcing his retirement, Santana joined Fluminense for the end of the 1989 season.

In 1990 he moved to Palmeiras, before taking over at Sao Paulo last October. Santana immediately took his new club to the final of the Brazilian championship, but the jinx struck again and they lost to Corinthians in the final.

Blocked

Ironically, when the hoodoo was broken this year, Santana did not see his moment of glory.

There were so many photographers, radio and TV reporters, cameramen, soundmen, etc waiting for his reaction at the final whistle that his view of the pitch was blocked during the dying minutes of the decisive match against Bragantino.

The 59-year-old Santana has now renewed his contract with Sao Paulo. How long he will continue is a mystery.

Santana is a declared admirer of the "jogo bonito" and a constant critic of the violence and time-wasting that has sadly become a hallmark of Brazilian soccer.

Brazil's 1982 World Cup team provided the perfect example of how he thinks the game should be played: "I would rather lose playing good football than win playing ugly football," has become a Santana catch-phrase.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

The only threats this year, albeit minor, come from America, Rio Branco and Esportivo. The other 15 teams make up the numbers. The Minas Federation had not drawn up the rules by the time of writing.

Teams: Atletico Mineiro, Cruzeiro, America, Vila Nova, Valerio, Uberlandia, Uberaba, Tupi, Pouso Alegre, Fabril, Democrata, Rio Branco, Esportivo, Juventus, Paraisense, Caldense, Patrocinense, Araxa.

RIO GRANDE DO SUL: The situation in the "gaucho" championship is very similar to Minas Gerais.

Not since 1954, when Renner won the title, has anyone other than Gremio or Internacional put hands on the trophy. Renner were wound up five years after their historic triumph.

This year, 14 teams play each other twice on a league basis. The top four then decide the title with a quadrangular.

The teams leading at halfway and the end of the first stage each take a bonus point into the quadrangular.

Gremio have won the last six titles, which must have left Internacional foaming at the mouth, but they recently suffered the humiliation of being relegated to the Second Division of the national championship.

Teams: Internacional, Gremio, Caxias, Juventude, Esportivo, Lajeadense, Passo Fundo, Pelotas, Ypiranga, Gloria, Guarany de Cruz, Alta, Santa Cruz, Sao Luis, Guarani de Venancio Ares.

Championships also are held in Parana, Santa Catarina, Espirito Santo, Bahia, Sergipe, Alagoas, Pernambuco, Paraiba, Rio Grande do Norte, Ceara, Piaui, Maranhao, Para, Amazonas, Acre, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Goias and Brasilia.

Marcelo of Corinthians (right) tackles Erasmo of Palmeiras.

Steelers switch again

IF you're looking for a coaching job with a future, stay away from the Hamilton Steelers of the Canadian Soccer League. Since they began playing in the CSL in 1987 they have changed coaches ten times!

The latest casualty is former Canadian international John McGrane, who was fired by owner Mario Di Bartolomeo. McGrane has been replaced by Gerry Gray, recently signed from the Toronto Blizzard.

In addition to McGrane, Hamilton's list of former coaches includes Kevin Grant, John Charles, Bruce Wilson, Dave Turner, Justin Fashanu and Vid Horvat (three times).

In the hope of capturing the championship from the Vancouver 86ers, Toronto Blizzard have obtained Dale Mitchell and Doug Muirhead from the west coast club and Billy Domazetis, as well as Fashanu, from Hamilton.

Blizzard coach Roy Eiggemanson also has US international Ted Eck and young Canadian Paul Peshisolido up front while former Czech international Petr Rada is in defence.

Vancouver 86ers still lead the league, followed by Montreal Supra. Blizzard are third, followed by North York Rockets and the Steelers. Nova Scotia Clippers are in sixth place. Kitchener Kickers and the yet-to-win Winnipeg Fury make up the league.

USSF NEED TO FIND A MAP

A CERTAIN geographical confusion has marked recent events involving the United States Soccer Federation.

After the much-delayed announcement that the headquarters were being moved from Colorado Springs to Chicago, the USSF staged the AGM — in Detroit.

And while that meeting was in full session, the USSF put on an important game for the national team, against Sheffield Wednesday — in Philadelphia.

The move to Chicago is a positive step for the Federation, though not as positive as it might have been. New York is the obvious site for the HQ of a sports federation intent on hitting the big time. But the USSF thumbed that down, apparently on economic grounds and settled for the Second City.

Chicago had made a series of promises about future co-operation, and saw off competing bids from Dallas, Kansas and Atlanta by coming up with a "creative public-private effort."

The words are those of Joseph J. James, Chicago's Economic Development Commission, and they mean — first and foremost — that the USSF will be getting a break on the rental fee for the office.

They also mean that Chicago's Soldier Field will become a sort of home for the US national team. Looking ahead to World Cup '94, Chicago seem to have ensured selection as a game site and it may well be the one where the US — which will be a seeded team — will play.

The Detroit AGM was described by one participant as "a love-in", with the delegates from all over the US keen to show they feel that the USSF, under new president Alan Rothenberg and his handpicked general secretary Hank Steinbrecher, are making giant strides towards becoming an efficient, professionally-run organisation.

An example of the sort of move that helps to create such an image was the appointment of a full-time manager for the various national teams.

Bill Nuttall now fills the new post — he was described by Steinbrecher as having "a wide-ranging experience in American soccer that is unparalleled".

An exaggeration, of course, but there's little doubt that Nuttall has been through many different areas of the sport — from his playing days as a goalkeeper at college, on to administrative posts with pro clubs, both indoor and outdoor, and with a soccer equipment firm.

Experience

What Nuttall conspicuously lacks — indeed, what the entire USSF hierarchy lacks — is experience in the international field.

There is an exception: the recently appointed coach, Bora Milutinovic. He has been leading a charmed life, racking up win after win, with a team scoring goals and beginning to show signs of playing entertaining soccer.

No doubt he did not hurt his cause by beating Sheffield Wednesday 2-0...the game was beamed live from Philadelphia to Detroit, where the delegates watched on a giant screen.

But the euphoria in Detroit tended to mask certain problems that have arisen within the organisation of World Cup '94. Here, there is another relocation going on. The office in Washington DC is being closed, with the headquarters now located in Los Angeles. A small public relations office continues to operate out of New York.

Scott LeTellier, who has been running the Washington office and is by far the most experienced member of World Cup 94's staff, now finds himself pondering relocation back to California. He lives there, and moved east to open the DC office.

Scenario

At one time, LeTellier looked likely to be the man to run the 1994 World Cup, but Rothenberg's arrival a year ago changed that scenario in a hurry.

Chuck Cale was appointed the new No.1 man, and LeTellier operated more and more on the margins. We began to hear criticisms that his style was "too lawyerly" — translated, it meant that LeTellier, who is a lawyer, tended to get too enmeshed in dotting every "i" and crossing every "t", and that things weren't moving as quickly as they should.

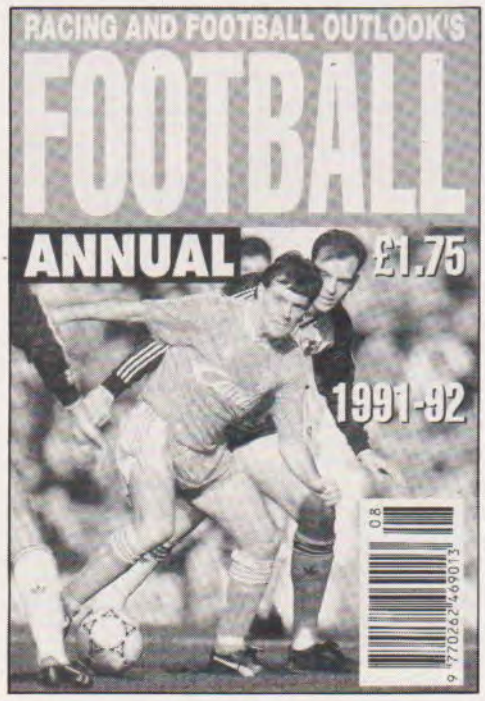
Whether or not that is true, there has not been any noticeable increase in pace since Cale's appointment. In particular, he has not inspired great admiration with some decidedly questionable appointments to key posts.

Above all, WC'94 has yet to come up with its sponsors. It is operating at the moment on a bank credit line, but this will not supply anything like the funds necessary for a full-scale operation.

With a mere three years to go before the kick-off action is needed now. The feeling is that Rothenberg — who appointed Cale — will now take more direct involvement in the running of the tournament.

PAUL GARDNER

RACING AND FOOTBALL OUTLOOK'S FOOTBALL ANNUAL



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THURSDAY, JULY 4

ARGENTINA: Ricardo Bochini, Independiente's veteran schemer, announces his retirement.

SPAIN: Vara de Rey, legal adviser to the Spanish Federation, flies to Zurich to plead Real Madrid's case for the immediate release by the Yugoslavs of Robert Prosinecki's international transfer permit.

FRIDAY, JULY 5

ACTION: In the semi-finals of the CONCACAF Gold Cup, the United States beat favourites Mexico 2-0 and Honduras defeat Costa Rica by the same margin.

FRANCE: The league executive committee decide - ignoring ongoing legal battles - that Bordeaux should play in the Second Division this coming season along with Nice and Brest (all three relegated on financial grounds). Rennes stay in the First Division, Lens, Nimes and Le Havre are promoted.

HOLLAND: Romario, on holiday in Brazil, warns that he will not return to PSV Eindhoven unless at least five quality players are signed to strengthen the squad for a Champions' Cup challenge.

ITALY: Milan sign up a new teenage goalkeeper, Carlo Cudicini, son of Fabio, who was the first player to win all three European club competitions. Giorgio Zappacosta is appointed new secretary of the FIGC.

SPAIN: The Government confirms the terms of a royal decree by which sports clubs (football, basketball, etc) can be transformed from private clubs into limited companies ... Valencia sign Tenerife's Panamanian top scorer, Rommel Fernandez.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA spokesman Rene Eberle warns that if the current internal unrest continues in Yugoslavia, the country's clubs will be excluded from the new season's European competitions.

URUGUAY: The Federation ban from all international selections the four players (Paolo Montero, Diego Martin Dorta, Dario Silva and Gerardo Silveiro) who disgraced themselves at the recent World Youth Cup in Portugal.

SATURDAY, JULY 6

ACTION: The South American championship opens with hosts Chile defeating Venezuela 2-0 and Paraguay beating Peru 1-0.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

ACTION: Yet another decisive penalty shoot-out as the US defeat Honduras 4-3 on spot-kicks after a goalless draw in the final of the CONCACAF Gold Cup in the Los Angeles Coliseum. In the third place match Mexico beat Costa Rica 2-0 ... in the Copa America (South American championship) Colombia beat Ecuador 2-0 while Uruguay struggle to pull back for a 1-1 draw with Bolivia ... in the Asian round of the Olympic qualifiers there are victories for Japan (3-0 v Hong Kong 3-0), for Thailand (6-0 v Philippines) and for Bangladesh (1-0 v Malaysia).

MONDAY, JULY 8

ACTION: In the Copa America, Chile beat Peru 4-4 while Argentina defeat Venezuela 3-0.

ENGLAND: BBC get back into European football, agreeing an exclusive coverage deal with Liverpool in the UEFA Cup. ITV are the real winners, however, contracting Arsenal in the Champions' Cup and Tottenham and Manchester United in the Cup-winners' Cup.

GERMANY: Veteran sweeper Klaus Augenthaler announces his retirement after 15 years with Bayern Munich.

TUESDAY, JULY 9

ACTION: The Copa America's first draw - Uruguay v Ecuador, 1-1. Brazil scrape a 2-1 victory over Bolivia.

ARGENTINA: Newell's Old Boys beat Boca Juniors 3-1 in a penalty shoot-out to decide the 1991 championship. This follows Boca's 1-0 win in the second leg of a play-off (aggregate 1-1). Both clubs miss star players on Copa America duty with the national team ... Diego Maradona makes a 'comeback' in a five-a-side tournament organised by former national team-mate Daniel Batista in Buenos Aires.

FRANCE: A civil court orders Bordeaux to pay former coach Aime Jacquet £70,000 as compensation for terminating his contract two years ago. Jacquet had claimed £360,000 in salary owed and damages ... new Marseille coach Tomislav Ivic says his team will play attacking football.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich make little-known Karlsruhe defender Oliver Kreuzer the most expensive domestic German when they sign him for £1.9million.

SPAIN: Gijon's coaching offer is turned down by former England aide Don Howe.

SWITZERLAND: The International Olympic Committee, playing fast and loose with the formalities, readmit South Africa - a move which promises an eventual return to the FIFA fold, though not before next year.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

ACTION: In the Copa America, Paraguay thrash Venezuela 5-0 while Argentina defeat hosts Chile 1-0 with an 81st-minute goal from Batistuta ... Norway beat hosts Denmark 8-7 on penalties after a 0-0 draw in the European women's championship semi-finals in Hjorring.

BRAZIL: An airport security check reveals a bomb in baggage being loaded onto a jet on which old Brazil stars Pele and Socrates are due to fly.

FRANCE: An appeals commission confirms the bad-debt relegation of Nice and Brest.

GERMANY: Promoted Stuttgart Kickers buy Czechoslovak midfielder Karel Kula from Banik Ostrava ... other clubs, officials and the media attack Bayern Munich's transfer splash on Kreuzer.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA set the seeding system for the European cups, rejecting a proposal from Swiss Federation president Fredy Rumo which would have included the English entries.

THURSDAY, JULY 11

ACTION: Bolivia and Colombia draw 0-0 in the Copa America while Brazil and Uruguay draw 1-1 ... Morocco beat Yugoslavia 3-2 in the third place play-off at the Mediterranean Games in Athens ... Germany beat Italy 3-0 in Fredrikshavn, Denmark, to reach the final of the European women's championship.

FRANCE: Paris Saint-Germain confirm the signing of Brazilian centre-back Ricardo Gomes Raimundo from Benfica - and sell Yugoslav midfield veteran Safet Susic to Second Division neighbours Red Star.

SOVIET UNION: CSKA retain their leadership despite a surprise 1-0 home defeat by second-placed Moscow neighbours Spartak.

SWITZERLAND: The draws for the three European club tournaments take place in Geneva. European champions Red Star Belgrade are drawn against Portadown of Northern Ireland.

FRIDAY, JULY 12

ACTION: Egypt beat Chad 5-1 in Cairo and now need only draw their last group game against Tunisia to reach next year's African Nations' finals in Senegal ... in the Copa America, Peru thrash weak Venezuela 5-1 and Argentina impress again in beating Paraguay 4-1 ... Greece beat Turkey 3-1 in an intimidatory atmosphere at the Athens Olympic stadium, in the final of the Mediterranean Games.

BULGARIA: Dimitar Penev, former World Cup defender, is appointed new national manager in succession to Ivan Vutzov.

FRANCE: Bordeaux lose their last fight against relegation. Their plea that relegation for any club going into receivership could not apply to a reconstituted company is rejected by the French high court (the state council) ... Paris Saint-Germain's registration of Brazil defender Ricardo is refused by the federation because PSG already have their limit of two non-EC players (Geraldao and Zlatko Vujovic) ... Nancy are asked to explain why a misleading half-time score was announced over the public address system during their vital end-of-season clash against Monaco.

GERMANY: Nurnberg win the race to sign midfielder Andre Golke from relegated St Pauli.

SPAIN: The FEF confirms permission for clubs to sign four foreigners, although only three will be allowed on the pitch at any one time in league games.

SATURDAY, JULY 13

ACTION: Colombia surprisingly beat Brazil 1-0 in the South American championship. In a highly-entertaining second game, Ecuador maintain qualifying contention by defeating Bolivia 4-0 ... the World Student Games soccer tournament opens in and around Sheffield, a day ahead of the official opening ceremony.

FRANCE: Brest and Nice lose their final appeals against relegation because of their financial problems.

SUNDAY, JULY 14

ACTION: Argentina and Chile qualify from Group A for the final round of the South American championship. Argentina maintain their 100 per cent by beating already-eliminated Peru 3-2; then Chile hit their finest form of the finals in defeating Paraguay 4-0 ... in African Nations qualifiers, there are victories for Cameroon (1-0 v Sierra Leone), Togo (2-0 v Benin), Gabon (1-0 v Tanzania), Zaire (1-0 v Uganda) and Kenya (1-0 v Mozambique). In Harare, Zimbabwe and Congo draw 2-2 ... hosts Denmark lose 3-1 in extra time to Germany in the final of the European women's championship in Aalborg.

ENGLAND: Liverpool follow up their £2.2million capture of England centre-back Mark Wright by paying a British record £2.9million for Wright's former Derby team-mate Dean Saunders, the Wales striker.

ITALY: Diego Maradona's Italian lawyer, Vincenzo Siniscalchi, says he will fly to Buenos Aires later this month to coordinate "our plan of action" over Maradona's drugs charges.

MONDAY, JULY 15

ACTION: Colombia secure their place in the final round of the South American championship despite losing their last Group B match by 1-0 to Uruguay. Both teams have a man sent off. In the other match, Brazil beat Ecuador 3-1 ... The United States beat Britain 1-0 at Scunthorpe in the World Student Games.

DENMARK: Brondby goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel flies to Manchester for more talks with United aimed at sealing his £550,000 transfer.

GREECE: George Koskotas, disgraced former president of top club Olympiakos, accuses ex-Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou into forcing him into involvement in illegal arms and finance deals.

UNITED STATES: National team forward Ted Eck signs for St Louis Storm of the Major Soccer League.

TUESDAY, JULY 16

ACTION: Turkey are held 1-1 in a friendly by the Faroe Islands.

SPAIN: Second Division Figueras sign United States midfielder Peter Vermes to partner fellow countryman Tab Ramos. Vermes played for Raba ETO Gyor of Hungary in 1988 then in Holland for Volendam in 1989.

FRANCE: Metz offer a trial to West Ham forward Leroy Rosenior.

SCOTLAND: Tony Cascarino, Aston Villa's Irish Republic striker, agrees to move north to sign for Celtic.

SOUTH AFRICA: A delegation from the African confederation arrives in Johannesburg to study South African soccer and consider what recommendation to make to FIFA regarding the country's reintegration ... Everton are reported to have been approached to play a friendly against the South African national team in October.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA have second thoughts and permit the Faroe Islands to stage European championship ties on their new turf pitch (rather than play on neutral territory in Landskrona, Sweden).

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

ACTION: In the Copa America Argentina beat Brazil 3-2 in a final round opener which sees five players sent off. Chile draw 1-1 with Colombia.

BULGARIA: UEFA Cup contenders CSKA Sofia agree a sponsorship deal with the Italian pharmaceutical company Sintofarm for their first round against Italian club Parma. Sintofarm president Mirco Benatti says: "This may seem strange but I have to think as a businessman."

SOUTH AFRICA: The African Confederation say that the entire continent would welcome South Africa's return to the international fold.

THURSDAY, JULY 18

AUSTRIA: Cup holders Stockerau say it is unlikely they can afford the £50,000 needed to stage their Cup-winners' Cup preliminary tie against Tottenham in the Prater stadium. Otherwise they will play their tie on their own small Alte Au home ground.

BAHRAIN: The Gulf soccer states decide to postpone the next Gulf Cup to 1992 while they try to retrieve the trophy by Iraq - whose soldiers stole it from the 1990 winners, Kuwait, during last year's invasion.

OBITUARY

Mikhail MESHKI, 53-year-old veteran of the Soviet Union's 1960 European Nations title-winning side. An outside left, who formed half of a distinguished wing-to-wing partnership at Tbilisi Dynamo with Slava Metrevelli. Meshki played 35 times for the Soviet national team and was a national championship-winner with Tbilisi in 1964.

Mokhtar DAHARI, a top Asian forward in the 1970s, died aged 39 in Kuala Lumpur. Mokhtar earned the nickname SuperMokh after making his debut at 19 for the Selangor provincial side. He ended his international career in the World Cup qualifying matches of 1985. He leaves a widow and three children (aged 10, eight and two).

CHILE: *Brazil submit a formal protest about Paraguayan referee Carlos Maciel following their stormy Copa America defeat by Argentina.*

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: *Banik Ostrava sell midfielder Villiam Hyravy to French club Toulouse.*

ENGLAND: *Aston Villa manager Ron Atkinson, flying out on a club tour to Germany, sets a price of £7million on England forward David Platt - whom he sends back to Birmingham to discuss transfer offers from Bari and Marseille. Simultaneously, Marseille have an opening bid of £4million for John Barnes turned down by Liverpool.*

GERMANY: *Two weeks before the start of the new German season, promoted Schalke shift Helmut Kremers out of the general manager's job and into the club's marketing department. Former international Gunter Netzer is the new general manager.*

SWITZERLAND: *UEFA set July 25 to hear Den Bosch's appeal against their three-year European club ban.*

UNITED STATES: *Veterans of Cosmos in the 1970s meet in New York for a 20-year reunion organised by former team adviser Julio Mazzei.*

YUGOSLAVIA: *The Federation prepare a secondary administrative option for the new season if clubs from Slovenia and Croatia refuse to compete in a national championship.*

FRIDAY, JULY 19

ACTION: *Copa America competition sees Argentina edge closer to the title with a goalless draw against Chile; Brazil beat Colombia 2-0.*

ITALY: *Bari agree personal terms with England forward David Platt but are still haggling over the price with Aston Villa ... Ascoli buy Belgian World Cup midfielder Patrick Vervoort from Bordeaux ... Lazio forward Karl-Heinz Riedle is suspended from driving for a month in Germany for speeding.*

SATURDAY, JULY 20

FRANCE: *The French season opens with a 1-0 home win for Marseille over Lille and Monaco staging the performance of the day by winning 4-1 at Montpellier.*

ITALY: *Bari agree to pay Aston Villa £5.5million for Platt, who has accepted their offer despite a counter-bid by Marseille.*

IVORY COAST: *The championship is suspended after ASEC supporters riot when one of their players is sent off in a home match in Abidjan. Police use tear gas to restore order.*

SOUTH AFRICA: *Good news for South African soccer. Issa Hayatou, president of the African Federation, says after a study visit that he will see what can be done to achieve an early reintegration into FIFA.*

SUNDAY, JULY 21

ACTION: *Argentina clinch the Copa America for the first time in 32 years thanks to a 2-1 victory over Colombia. Brazil finish runners-up after beating Chile 2-0 ... in the Olympic qualifiers the United States thrash Panama 7-1 ... Britain lose 1-0 to Holland in the World Student Games semi-finals. South Korea beat Uruguay 4-1 in the other semi-final.*

MONDAY, JULY 22

BELGIUM: *Simon Tahamata, veteran Dutch star of Germinal Ekeren, loses the fingers on one hand in a lawnmower accident.*

ENGLAND: *The High Court hears the opening exchanges in the legal dispute between the Football Association and the Football League which is basically all about who may run a Superleague.*

GERMANY: *Borussia Dortmund beat Bayern Munich 2-0 in the opening match of a four-team Fuji Cup tournament in Bayreuth. Chapuisat and Breitzke score the goals ... Bayern midfielder Stefan Effenberg is banned for four matches by the DFB after being sent off last week in a friendly against Second Division neighbours 1860 Munich.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA name the World XI squad, coached by Bobby Robson (PSV Eindhoven) and Bora Milutinovic (United States) for the UNICEF fund-raising charity match against Germany in Munich on October 8. The squad is: Goycochea, Higuita; Kadlec, Jorginho, Larsson, Mozer, Ruggeri, Sivebaek; Harkes, Prosinecki, Scifo, Stojkovic, Valderrama, Waddle; Barnes, Futre, Gullit, Iguaran, Kim Joo-sung, Michael Laudrup, Lineker, Pele, Rush, Skuhravy, Van Basten, Zamorano.*

TUESDAY, JULY 23

ARGENTINA: *President Carlos Menem lays on a champagne reception for Argentina's homecoming South American champions - as several of the team secure European contracts (including Sergio Goycochea with Brest and Gabriel Batistuta with Fiorentina) ... federal judge Amelia Ferraz de Vidal finds Diego Maradona does have a case to answer on charges of drugs possession. A decision is still pending on charges of drugs supply.*

ENGLAND: *Australian youth star Mark Bosnich is refused a work permit and must return to Australia. Goalkeeper Bosnich had been exempt from regulations because he was competing a two-year course at Manchester Polytechnic ... Peter Shreeves is appointed Tottenham'sfirst-team coach, with responsibility for team preparation and selection, by managing director Terry Venables ... Liverpool striker Ian Rush is ruled out for two months by achilles trouble.*

GERMANY: *Werder Bremen beat Kaiserslautern 2-1 in the second semi-final of the Fuji Cup in Bayreuth. Both Bremen goals come from new signing Stefan Kohn, ex-Bochum.*

SPAIN: *Logrones buy Austria striker Toni Polster from Sevilla.*

YUGOSLAVIA: *Federation secretary Ante Pavlovic says that the civil unrest means the start of the league season, set for August 3, may have to be delayed ... the federation agree to the sale of FC Zagreb striker Nikola Jurcevic to FC Salzburg.*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

ACTION: *South Korea beat Holland 5-4 on penalties after a goalless draw in the final of the World Student Games. In the third place match, England beat Uruguay 2-1 thanks to two goals from Sion Thomas.*

BELGIUM: *Mechelen agree terms with Widzew Lodz and Poland striker Tamasz Cebula ... a friendly between Standard Liege and Cercle in the seaside resort of Blankenberge is cancelled because of local fears over hooligan trouble.*

BRAZIL: *Bad news for Brazil coach Paulo Roberto Falcao: he receives a vote of confidence from CBF president Ricardo Teixeira.*

SPAIN: *Barcelona buy midfielder Richard Witschge from Ajax for £2.8million.*

SWITZERLAND: *UEFA rule that the Faroes must play their remaining three "home" European championship ties in Landskrona, Sweden, after all. The Faroes had applied to use their new, turf pitch instead. UEFA deliver their ruling after protests at a possible venue switch from Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia ... UEFA reject an appeal by Thomas Berthold against a five-match European championship ban imposed after his expulsion against Wales in Cardiff ... the Swiss championship opens with champions Grasshoppers thrashed 4-0 at Aarau.*

YUGOSLAVIA: *Red Star decide to stage their first home match in defence of the Champions' Cup in Szeged, Hungary. The club were ordered to play their next home match on a neutral venue because of crowd trouble last season.*

SOCCER ON TV...

SKY SPORTS

SUNDAY 1 SEPTEMBER
20.00 Scottish Premier Division Football
22.00 Italian Football: Full coverage of today's top game on the opening day.

MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER
11.00 Italian Football: Yesterday's game in full.
13.00 Scottish highlights.
21.00 Italian Football: A second game from yesterday's programme, plus all the goals from around the league.

TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER
11.00 Italian Football: Full match plus all the goals.

WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER
19.00 Skol Cup - Live: Coverage of one of the quarter-finals.

THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER
Midday Skol Cup Soccer: Full coverage of last night's big match.

FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER
18.00 Sky Soccer Weekend Midnight Sky Soccer Weekend

SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER
09.00 Sky Soccer Weekend

SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER
14.30 Live Italian Football: The pick of the day's games.
20.00 Scottish Premier League Midnight Italian League

MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER
Midday Italian Football: Another chance to see yesterday's game in full.
14.00 Scottish Premier Football: Highlights of the weekend's best games.
21.00 Italian Football: Another full game, plus all the goals.

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER
18.00 Italian League. All the goals from the week plus highlights of last night's game.
21.00 The Footballer's Football Show
Midnight The Footballer's Football Show

WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER
Midday Italian League Football
14.00 The Footballer's Football Show
19.30 Live International Football - England v Germany
01.30 International Football: See 19.30pm.

Italian soccer, extensive coverage begins Sept 1.

German soccer, coverage begins on Sept 13.

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER
Midday International Football: England v Germany
18.00 Sky Soccer - European Round-Up
23.00 European Soccer Round-Up

FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER
12.30 European Soccer Round-Up
18.00 Sky Soccer Weekend
19.00 German Soccer: Live action.
22.00 Sky Soccer Weekend
Midnight German Soccer

SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER
09.30 Sky Soccer Weekend
Midday German Soccer
18.00 1954 World Cup
20.00 Scottish Premier League
22.00 Italian League

MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER
Midday Scottish Premier League
15.00 Italian League
21.00 Italian League

TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
12.30 1954 World Cup
18.00 Italian League
21.00 The Footballer's Football Show
Midnight The Footballer's Football Show

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER
Midday Italian League
14.00 The Footballer's Football Show

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER
18.00 European League Football
23.00 European League Football

FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER
12.30 European Football Round-Up
19.00 German Football - Live action
22.00 Sky Soccer Weekend
Midnight German Football

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER
09.30 Sky Soccer Weekend
Midday German Football

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER
14.30 Italian Football: A full game live.
20.00 Scottish Premier League
22.00 Italian League

MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER
Midday Scottish Premier League
15.00 Italian League
21.00 Italian League

TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER
12.30 1958 World Cup
18.00 Italian League

SCREENSPORT

MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER
1930 Spanish goals.

TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER
1630 Spanish goals.

WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER
0800 Spanish goals.

THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER
1800 Argentine Soccer
2100 Spanish football.

FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER
1600 Argentine Soccer

SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER
1200 Argentine Soccer

MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER
1930 Spanish goals.

WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER
0800 Spanish highlights

THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER
1800 Argentine Soccer
2100 Spanish Soccer

FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER
1600 Argentine Soccer
1800 Spanish highlights.

SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER
1200 Argentine Soccer

MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER
1930 Spanish Highlights

TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
1630 Spanish Highlights

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER
0800 Spanish Highlights

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER
1800 Argentine Soccer
2100 Spanish Highlights

FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER
1600 Argentine Soccer

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER
1300 Argentine Soccer

MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER
1930 Spanish Highlights

TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER
1630 Spanish Highlights

WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER
0800 Spanish Highlights

THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER
1800 Argentine Soccer
2100 Spanish Highlights

FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER
1600 Argentine Soccer

SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER
1300 Argentine Soccer

SPAIN BY GRAHAM TURNER

CRUYFF TURNS UP THE HEAT

IN SPAIN It bugs Johan Cruyff that his Barcelona are not clear, odds-on favourites to renew their league title.

History reveals that the Catalan club have been unable to win two consecutive championships for 30 years. And it still rankles with Cruyff himself that, having won the 1974 title in his first year as a Barcelona player, he was unsuccessful in four subsequent attempts. His antidote to the club's once-is-enough syndrome boils down to one word: pressure.

Aware that his side came disastrously off the boil in the latter part of last season, Cruyff started the pre-season with the avowed intention of drawing his players as tight as guitar strings and keeping them that way.

After just 20 minutes of a friendly against Dutch amateur side SV Zupthen he asked the referee to stop the game and sent all 10 outfield players for an early shower — including eight full internationals.

Furious at their lack of effort, Cruyff sent on ten replacements with the score at 0-0 and looked slightly happier after a final scoreline of 14-0. That was a a clear statement of intent by Cruyff, who has now assembled a 24-man squad where competition for first-team places is intense, even among the foreigners. It irked him that his three imports could feel they were literally and figuratively apart, able to hold their places with less effort.

The new rule, permitting him to perm any three from four foreigners, not only paved the way for the signing of Richard Witschge, but also condemns Ronald Koeman, Michael Laudrup and Hristo Stoichkov to fight, week in week out, for their places.

Barcelona's other three reinforcements are the Mallorca utility midfielder Juan Carlos Nadal, the Atletico Madrid left-back Juan Carlos and right-back Cristobal, a Terry Venables discovery who has now returned after loans to Oviedo and Logrones. Tactically, however, Witschge's arrival at the Nou Camp opens new options for the side.

Witschge, the young left-footer hailed as the natural successor to Arnold Muhren, has the skill and vision to open new channels with diagonal passes from left to right against opponents now well accustomed to Ronald Koeman's penchant for long passes towards the left flank.

According to John Toshack, Cruyff's first adversary when Barcelona met Real Sociedad in the first fixture of the last year because their attack simply asked too many questions. This year, Cruyff hopes they will post even more.

Witschge . . . the one recruit from a major soccer power.

Johan's pressure-cooker not only distributes heat in his own kitchen. Before the end of last season he was already pressurising referees by claiming they would help take the title away from Barcelona this season.

And, of course, he has been trying to pressurise Real Madrid. Via the media he maintains that Real are still in the deep crisis they suffered last season and that the "meringues" are making all the mistakes normally endemic to Barcelona. Michel was drawn into a war of words until told by Raddy Antic to concentrate on his own job and not fall so naively into Cruyff's trap.

Haggling

Antic is under pressure, in his first full season in charge, to put Real's show back on the road and to get an immediate return on the £6.4m invested in left-back Mikel Lasa, central defender Ricardo Rocha, striker Luis Enrique and, above all, midfielder Robert Prosinecki.

The protracted haggling about the Yugoslav's eligibility has condemned Antic to a search for enough tactical variations to cover his possible absence. Apart from Prosinecki's sheer ability, the most striking feature of Real's pre-season was the form of Gheorghe Hagi.

The Romanian, after grim early months, showed radical improvement when Antic arrived 11 weeks before the end of last season, and thrived on a more advanced role with fewer defensive responsibilities. Many of Real's coaching staff voted to ditch Hagi during the summer and he is now under pressure to show that his reprieve was the correct decision.

Cruyff's pressure game hasn't raised many laughs at Atletico Madrid, where the notable reinforcements are left-back Miguel Soler from Barcelona and midfielder Gabriel Moya from Valladolid.

The coach in Jesus Gil's hot-seat this season is the former player and manager of the "mattress-makers", Luis Aragones. After only three days pre-season training he suffered another of his nervous breakdowns and a psychiatrist had to be flown in from Dallas to shake Luis out of a condition officially described as "phobic anxiety".

Along with Cruyff's heart attack, the psychiatric problems suffered by Aragones underline the stresses suffered by soccer bosses.

Prosinecki . . . finally a Real player.

Aragones, who scored Atletico's goal in the 1974 Champions' Cup final against Bayern, began to suffer soon after taking over as coach.

During the 1975-76 season he tendered his resignation but was persuaded by the then-president, the late Vicente Calderon, to continue. In 1981 he resigned from his new job at Betis without directing a game, having suffered another acute bout of depression during the pre-season.

In 1986, again during the pre-season, Aragones refused to come out of his hotel room for three days and Vicente Miera, currently Spain's national team manager, hurriedly took over at Atletico. Then, in January 1988, after taking over from Terry Venables at Barcelona, he suffered another breakdown, bursting into tears during the team-talk and begging his players to "go out and win for me".

After two days when he was unable to get off his bed, Luis received treatment from leading specialist Dr. Jose Pozuelo, who now insists that the coach will not leave the rails again. With tranquility and the right state of mind, He is certainly capable of mounting a serious challenge with a strong, balanced squad.

Signing

Unfortunately, few other sides look capable of out-running the Big Three, although Guus Hiddink's Valencia, notably strengthened by the signing of exciting Panamanian striker Rommel Fernandez, could be worth an each-way bet.

Elsewhere, the generalised story is one of clubs faced with mandatory conversion into limited companies within the next year and with little cash to spend.

It is significant that Witschge is the only arrival from a country which could be labelled as a major Western soccer power.

The recruiting has been so generally diverted towards bargain-basements that over 80 per cent of the foreigners in the Spanish First Division now hail either from America or from Eastern European countries.

There are no French, Italians or Britons; only two Dutchmen, at Barcelona; and the only two representatives of World champions Germany are the "rebels" Bernd Schuster of Atletico and the controversial Wolfram Wuttke, now beginning his second season at Espanol.

SPAIN'S FIRST DIVISION FOREIGNERS

BARCELONA: Koeman, Witschge (Hol), Laudrup (Den), Stoichkov (Bul).
REAL MADRID: Hagi (Rum), Prosiecki (Yugo), Rocha (Bra), Sanchez (Mex).
AT. MADRID: Futre (Port), Rodax (Aus), Schuster (Ger).
GIJON: Iordanov (Bul), Luhovy (Cze), Nilsson (Swe).
OSASUNA: Spasic, Stevanovic (Yugo), Urban (Pol).
OVIEDO: Jerkan, Gracan, Jankovic (Yugo), Lacatus (Rom).
VALENCIA: Leonardo, Toni (Bra), Penev (Bul), Rommel (Panama).
LOGRONES: Gutierrez (Uru), Polster (Aus), Micinec (Cze).
REAL SOCIEDAD: Carlos Xavier, Oceano (Port).
ZARAGOZA: Franco (Arg), Mateut (Rum), Poyet, Suarez (Uru).
ESPANOL: Wuttke (Ger), Alfaro Moreno (Arg), Mijic (Yugo).
VALLADOLID: Alvarez, Valderrama, Higuita (Col).
SEVILLA: Bengoechea (Uru), Zamorano (Chile)*, Kostadinov (Bul).
MALLORCA: Zaki, Hassan (Mor), Mendez (Uru).
BURGOS: Juric, Barbaric (Yugo), Balint (Rum), Limperger (Hung).
CADIZ: Vazquez, Ahmed (Arg), Szendrei (Hung).
TENERIFE: Pizzi, Redondo, Dertycia (Arg).
CORUNA: Stojadinovic, Kanatlarovski, Djukic (Yugo), Kiriakov, Kikov (Bul).
ALBACETE: Conejo (C. Rica), Etcheverry (Bol), Zalazar (Uru).
BILBAO: None.
*to be confirmed

Valderrama . . . to Valladolid.

MAJOR TRANSFERS

PLAYER	FROM	TO	FEE
Prosinecki	Red Star	Real Madrid	£2.5m
Witschge	Ajax	Barcelona	£2.2m
Atkinson	R. Sociedad	Aston Villa	£1.6m
Lasa	R. Sociedad	Real Madrid	£1.5m
Luis Enrique	Gijon	Real Madrid	£1.4m
Rommel	Tenerife	Valencia	£1.4m
Ricardo Rocha	Sao Paulo	Real Madrid	£1m
Nadal	Mallorca	Barcelona	£800,000
Ciganda	Osasuna	Bilbao	£800,000
Moya	Valladolid	At. Madrid	£700,000
Juan Carlos	At. Madrid	Barcelona	e/c
Losada	Real Madrid	At. Madrid	£550,000
Soler	Barcelona	At. Madrid	£550,000*
Franco	Newell's	Zaragoza	£550,000
Dertycia	Cadiz	Tenerife	£500,000
Emilio	Castellon	Gijon	£440,000
Richardson	R. Sociedad	Aston Villa	£425,000
Alvarez	At. Nacional	Valladolid	£425,000
Solana	Real Madrid	Zaragoza	e/c
Marcos	Mallorca	Sevilla	£400,000
Spasic	Real Madrid	Osasuna	£350,000
Leonardo	Sao Paulo	Valencia	£350,000
Cuxart	Valencia	Espanol	£335,000
Oceano	Sp. Lisbon	R. Sociedad	£335,000
Carlos Xavier	Sp. Lisbon	R. Sociedad	£335,000
Cristobal	Logrones	Barcelona	£300,000
Aldridge	R. Sociedad	Tranmere	£250,000
Valderrama	Montpellier	Valladolid	£250,000
Stevanovic	Part. Belgrade	Osasuna	£225,000
Limperger	Ferencvaros	Burgos	£225,000
Alfaro Moreno	Independiente	Espanol	£275,000
Lopez Rekarte	Barcelona	Coruna	£220,000
Polster	Sevilla	Logrones	e/c
Fernandez	Castellon	Lyon	£200,000
Etcheverry	Bolivar	Albacete	£175,000

KEY:
e/c — end of contract. * — loan with option to buy.

PORTUGAL BY ALBERTO DA SILVA

NEW COACH, NEW COSTS

but the big three will dominate again

THE new football season opens with the country still in a mood of excitement generated by the recent victory in the World Youth championship.

Despite attendances having gone down last season by about 800,000, the young Portuguese players were able to count on ample national support for their epic effort — particularly when, in front of 120,000 they beat Australia and then, in the final, when they conquered the marvellous Brazilians on a typical Lisbon night, with Benfica's Estadio da Luz full to 130,000 capacity.

The new season starts under a new national manager. Artur Jorge had tried to combine the jobs of managing both FC Porto and the Portuguese national team, but the dual role was virtually impossible. And, as the only contract between the Portuguese FA and Jorge was merely a gentlemen's agreement, he left for Paris St Germain.

His replacement was obvious: the FA moved swiftly to appoint Carlos Queiroz, a very young fellow at 38, a man with great expectations, as the "supremo" of all national teams.

He led the youngsters and helped them win the world championship, but his new task of conquering the Dutch next October in Holland and qualifying for the European Championships later on, is most difficult.

A nine per cent increase in the cost of admission will push prices in the First Division to levels between £2.30 and £9. Watching Portuguese football is not usually expensive even taking into account differences in living standards among the European countries.

But clubs in the top three divisions will be allowed to charge extra for any five games in the season, which means that supporters will have to pay more to watch games like Benfica v Sporting or Porto v Benfica.

The same will apply to European games, where the clubs can virtually charge at will. Then watching soccer will not be so inexpensive after all.

As always the championship will be decided by the three major clubs: Benfica, Porto and Sporting. Porto have replaced Jorge, with the Brazilian Carlos Alberto Silva, who appears not to have made up his mind as to the real class of his players.

Readers will recall that after failing to keep two outstanding Brazilian defenders — Branco, who went to Italy, and Geraldao, who followed his manager to Paris Saint-Germain, Porto also lost their balance as a team.

Decisive

They were unable to rise to the occasion in the decisive match against Benfica, when the championship was lost and won.

But having now bought a promising forward from Boavista, Jorge Andrade, as well as others such as Romanian Timofte from Timosoara and Bulgarian Mihtarsky from Levski Sofia, and proceeded to adjust to the new manager's ideas, Porto are perfectly capable of recovering the title as well as again attracting European attention in the Cup-winners' cup.

Benfica look to be trying to move away from Brazilian influence and settling for perestroika. With assistance from London businessman Pini Zahavi, they moved into the Soviet market to recruit Yuran from Dynamo Kiev.

Then, when Brazilian defender Ricardo left — to go to Paris Saint-Germain — Benfica turned again to Zahavi and asked him to help negotiate with Spartak Moscow for Kulkov's transfer The Soviets were not inclined to part, but the deal was finally agreed and Kulkov is already in Lisbon.

Carlos Queiroz, Portuguese manager.

What the strange combination of Swedish coach Sven-Goran Eriksson and Portuguese and Soviet players will bring remains to be seen.

Sporting Lisbon are showing yet again great determination in not losing ground to their adversaries.

They also bought in the East European market — Bulgarians Balakov, Guentchev and Yordanov.

Brazilian manager Marinho Peres also has two young men who so outstandingly contributed to the Portuguese victory in the youth championship: Figo and Peixe.

When one looks for players with real class enriched with the capability to improvise and reduce the opposition to pieces, we are happy to say that there are still some left in Portugal.

YUGOSLAVIA BY TIM COLLINGS

COLLAPSE! Civil war leaves game in limbo

YUGOSLAV football was in a state of crisis as the new season approached and the country was torn apart by civil war.

The mounting violence between Croats and Serbs was having a devastating effect on all sports not only football.

As this article was being written the outcome of the fighting was unknown, and the future of both the Yugoslav national league and the international team — expected to be one of the chief attractions at next year's European Championship finals in Sweden was uncertain.

All 25 Croatian teams in the top three divisions of the Yugoslav League, including Hajduk Split, had signed a declaration withdrawing from the league.

The self-proclaimed Republic of Croatia's Football Association said: "Due to the escalation of violence, and in the interests of security of spectators and players, all Croatian clubs hereby suspend their activities for an indefinite period."

The statement added that there were "moral and ethical" reasons for boycotting the league, which had been due to kick off on August 10.

Speculation suggested that the Croatian clubs would form their own competition, but its success and the future of Yugoslavia's crisis-torn football structure depended heavily on receiving recognition from UEFA and FIFA.

As if these events were not enough, Red Star Belgrade had to prepare to defend the Champions' Cup without the coach who guided tbem to their triumph.

Ljubomir Petrovic quit after the victory over Marseille last May, claiming that he had gone as far as he could within the framework of the job, and needed a new challenge.

He denied that he had reacted to criticism of his team's negative tactics, although it looks now as if he made the right decision, given the current perilous state of Yugoslav football.

Red Star also face the impending departure of Robert Prosincecki to Real Madrid, and the likely disintegration of their team.

ITALY BY PADDY AGNEW

ITALIAN SEASON GETS UNDER WAY

Reuter and Kohler (far right) . . . both have completed moves from Bayern Munich to Juventus, where Giovanni Trapattoni is in his second spell as coach.

WHETHER stretched out on a sweatsoaked deck chair at the beach or cooling him or herself on the prow of a luxury yacht just off the Costa Esmeralda, this is the time of year when the Italian soccer fan loves to predict, perchance to dream.

The new season in the world's most wonderful football championship will already have started (1st September) by the time you read this. All advance indications suggest that everyone from Fiat President and Juventus patron, Gianni Agnelli, to Aldo, the babysitter's husband, are agreed that this could be the year when Juventus refind the long lost winning trail.

The "Vecchia Signora" of Italian soccer has not won an Italian title since the twilight years of Michel Platini in 1986. Furthermore, disgrace of disgraces, this year Juventus are not involved in European competition for the first time in 28 seasons.

Despite all that, it is easy (perhaps too easy) to predict that Juventus will be a force to be reckoned with in this 1991-'92 season. The return of coach Giovanni Trapattoni (snatched from Internazionale) and of director Giampiero Boniperti (from premature retirement), the two men who together guided Juventus to six title wins between 1976 and 1986, is the single most obvious reason to suggest that Juventus can reverse their recent losing ru

On the field too, the construction of a new defence, based around Brazilian Julio Cesar and the two new signings, Germans Jurgen Kohler and Stefan Reuter, should represent a serious improvement. Defence was definitely NOT the Juventus strongpoint, last year.

Capello . . . former AC Milan player, now the club coach.

Determination

The new defence, the steady hand of Boniperti, the belief that both "Toto" Schillaci and Roberto Baggio can only improve on last year and the resolute determination of Trapattoni, still arguably the best coach in Italian soccer, all combine to create a side of whom aristocratic patron Agnelli casually says:

"We must never set any limit to our expectations and hopes."

Among those sides hoping to set very definite limits to Juventus success will be the round-up of the usual suspects — AC Milan, Internazionale and reigning champions Sampdoria at the front of the grid with Genoa and Torino not far behind. AC Milan set the tone for a quiet summer on the transfer market when they confirmed their existing Dutch trio of Ruud Gullit, Frank Rijkaard and Marco Van Basten would be staying.

There are many who have questioned the wisdom of this decision, arguing that Van Basten is low on motivation, that injury-prone Gullit is finished and that, anyway, Gullit now only tends to get in the way of Roberto Donadoni in midfield. Further question marks about AC Milan inevitably concern their new coach, Fabio Capello.

Much of the credit for Milan's successful run of recent years was awarded (rightly or wrongly) to the previous coach, attack-minded Arrigo Sacchi. Despite assurances from both Van Basten and Rijkaard that Capello's Milan is a much happier, more relaxed group, one can only wonder how the side will fare without Sacchi and whether Capello will prove as stubbornly resistant as his predecessor to interference from his all powerful club president/owner, television magnate Silvio Berlusconi.

What about the reigning champions, Sampdoria, then? A succession of defeats, sendings off and bookings in pre-season friendlies probably represents less of a handicap for them than the problems posed by the pressure of being defending champions and by the distraction of their first European Champions' Cup participation.

Discarding

Time will tell if Sampdoria, like AC Milan, have been too cautious in retaining all of last season's winning side, with Brazilian midfielder Silas (from Cesena) and young defender Alessandro Orlando (from Udinese) representing their only significant purchases. Time, too, will tell if the discarding of Soviet Alexei Mikhailichenko (to Glasgow Rangers) and the retention of the ever-popular 36-year-old Brazilian, Toninho Cerezo was not an unwise triumph of sentiment over common sense.

Serious question marks hang over the head of Internazionale Milan, too. They start the new season with a relatively inexperienced new coach, Corrado Orrico (from Second Division Lucchese) and with injury doubts about two of their most vital players, Germans Andreas Brehme and Lothar Matthaeus. The latter has left knee ligament problems while the former was plagued for much of last season by a thigh muscle strain.

If these two recover full fitness, if Stefano Desideri (signed from Roma) and Nicola Berti manage to peacefully co-exist in midfield, if Orrico wins the players' respect and if striker David Fontolan can return to his best form after a year's absence caused by a "Gazza" type knee injury, then Inter should be in with a shout again. However, that's a lot of "ifs".

Batistuta . . . top scorer in the Copa America, now with Fiorentina.

Were one looking for a good value bet on the championship title, then both Genoa and Torino merit consideration. Genoa, who have wisely confirmed their brilliant foreign trio of Uruguayan Carlos Aguilera, Brazilian Branco and Czech Tomas Skuhravy, played the best soccer seen last season, while Torino are already considering the subs bench for Spaniard Martin Vasquez in order to make room for their new signing, Belgian Enzo Scifo.

Of the others, Napoli still seem to be suffering from post-Maradona withdrawal symptoms that not even the arrival of the talented French sweeper, Laurent Blance, can overcome.

Parma, preparing for their first a taste of European competition, cannot reasonably be expected to maintain the remarkable form which saw them finish sixth last year, in their first season in the top division.

The two Roman clubs, Lazio and Roma, boosted by Teutonic muscle power in the shape of Rudi Voeller and Thomas Haessler (Roma) and of Karl-Heinz Riedle and Thomas Doll (Lazio) should do better than last year's final mid-table positions.

Finally, lowly Bari and struggling Fiorentina have made perhaps the two most interesting signings of the summer, respectively English midfielder David Platt and Argentinian striker (and Copa America revelation) Gabriel Batistuta.

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Europe

HOLLAND BY SIMON KUPER

Only two have title chance

PSV and Ajax are the only teams in the running for this year's Dutch title.

Behind them, FC Groningen should retain the third place they achieved last season, while traditional giants Feyenoord hope to recover from their dismal form of the past eight years.

The title may be decided already. PSV's wallet is so much thicker than those of Ajax and Feyenoord that some of the club's most crucial victories come in the transfer season.

This year was a case in point. The Big Three, PSV, Ajax and Feyenoord, were all looking for a centre-forward. PSV and Ajax were chasing Bordeaux's Wim Kieft, while Feyenoord wanted Anderlecht's John Van Loen, also a Dutch international.

PSV got Kieft, Ajax made do with Van Loen, and Feyenoord had to settle for a 30-year-old Romanian international, Marian Damaschin.

Other clubs can only envy PSV's striking pair of Kieft and Romario.

Brazilian international Romario averages a goal a game after three seasons in Holland, and Ajax manager Leo Beenhakker says he is the difference between Ajax and PSV.

The clubs finished level on points last season but PSV took the title on goal difference.

PSV's problems with Romario are all off the field.

The club allowed him a fortnight's extra holiday in Brazil this summer and he returned to decide friendlies against Valencia and Sampdoria.

It will be a great shock if he is not the league's highest scorer at the end of the season.

Beenhakker disagrees saying "John Van Loen will knock in 30 for us."

But Beenhakker is on the defensive, because his decision to sign Van Loen for just under £1 million was controversial.

Van Loen's appearance commonly evokes laughter: the enormous red-head is an effective but graceless centre-forward.

He is an expert at making room for himself, often with his elbows, and when he jumps for a header he is a good nine feet off the ground.

Technique

He has scored 69 goals in 172 Dutch League matches and one in seven internationals, but Ajax fans demand technique from their heroes.

Van Leon has won grudging admiration, but he is still the target of his own club's fans.

"They keep shouting that Beenhakker is my father," he complains. "He's a red-head too."

Van Loen's transfer is linked to Kieft's.

PSV could afford Kieft only because they sold John Bosman to Anderlecht, and when Bosman arrived in Brussels Van Loen became redundant there, after a single, disastrous season.

"Exactly a year ago, before a ball had been kicked, all the French-language papers wrote that Anderlecht had signed a lamp-post," he says.

Van Loen is far happier at Ajax, and even looks like condemning Swedish striker, Stefan Pettersson, to the bench.

Kieft . . . back in Holland with PSV.

With the European Championship in Sweden approaching, Pettersson is desperate to keep his place in his national team, and has said that he will refuse a spot in the dug-out.

In terms of money at least, the biggest transfer of the Dutch close season was Richard Witschge's £2.4m move from Ajax to Barcelona.

Witschge, only 21, already has 14 caps, but despite his talent, and Ajax's new policy of keeping their young players as long as possible, many at the club were pleased to see him go.

He seldom fulfilled his potential, quarrelled with older players and last season did not score a goal despite playing as an attacking midfielder.

Johan Cruyff, Barcelona's manager, idolises Witschge as much as Witschge idolises him.

Ajax have signed the 27-year-old Alfons Groenendijk from Roda Kerkrade as Witschge's replacement. This looks a very shrewd buy: Groenendijk cost only £300,000 and is more of a team-man and more consistent than Witschge.

Incapable

Feyenoord again look incapable of challenging Ajax and PSV, but should do better than in the past few years.

Season-ticket sales have risen significantly, and the main reason is that fans trust the new managerial duo of Wim Jansen and Hans Dorjee.

Their predecessor, Gunder Bengtsson, tried to impose a rigid 4-4-2 system which the players could not understand.

As well as the striker Damaschin, Feyenoord have signed a hardworking Dutch midfielder, Peter Bosz, from Toulon.

The club are massively in debt, and are trying to sell four players bought in the recent past: Piet Keur, Stanislav Griga, Mark Farrington and Gerrit Plomp.

The first three are strikers, which is a sad comment on Feyenoord's frantic search for a centre-forward.

SWEDEN BY TIM MANSEL

Benny versus Tommy

THE PRESS struggled during the long summer holiday to come up with enough back-page articles of interest to hold the attention of its sport-loving readership.

One Stockholm daily caused a storm with the views of the manager of Norway's Olympic squad, Benny Lennartsson, who also manages Norwegian leaders Viking Stavanger.

He maintained that the level of club football in Norway was far superior to that in Sweden, and added: "Even at international level, Norway isn't far behind."

The Swedish manager, Tommy Svensson, was obliged to react in the following day's edition. "Typical Benny," he was quoted as saying.

"Speak first and then think."

Svensson added: "No doubt the top Norwegian clubs could hold their own in the Swedish League, but overall we're still better."

The whole episode was designed, of course, to create a bit of extra interest in an otherwise relatively meaningless meeting between the countries, in Oslo.

Unbeaten

Predictions of a capacity 35,000 crowd proved over-optimistic. Not quite 10,000 paid to watch a Norwegian team on a high after the European Championship victory over Italy, and unbeaten in seven games, against a Swedish side who had scored 16 goals in five matches.

The Norwegians took an early lead through midfielder Oyvind Leonhardsen, in their first attack of any note.

The equaliser came soon afterwards when a 20-yard shot from Sheffield Wednesday's Roland Nilsson was deflected past keeper Einar Rossbach.

The winner came shortly before half-time, when Arsenal's Anders Limpar crowned an excellent solo run into the Norwegian box with a powerful shot.

The Swedes made life more difficult for themselves early in the second half when sweeper Peter Larsson was sent off for an uncharacteristically clumsy challenge long after the ball had gone.

So what did all this prove about the relative strengths of the Norwegian and Swedish leagues? Not a lot, especially as a large proportion of the players on the pitch earn their wages at clubs outside Scandinavia.

But it didn't really matter anyway, did it?

FOUR clubs in Sweden's Allsvenskan were tipped as dead certs to finish in the top six of the preliminary competition and qualify for the championship play-offs.

IFK Gothenburg, Malmo and Orebro made it with ease, but Norrkoping, thought by many as likely champions, only squeezed over the line by the narrowest of margins.

They finished level on points and goal difference with Halmstad, but qualified by scoring two goals more.

Last year's champions, IFK Gothenburg, finished on top, ahead of Orebro on goal difference. But they will miss Kennet Andersoon, scorer of 13 of their 29 goals, who left during the summer for Mechelen in Belgium.

The man signed to fill Andersson's boots is Gothenburg's prodigal son, Johnny Ekstrom, who returned home from second-team football in France at the end of July.

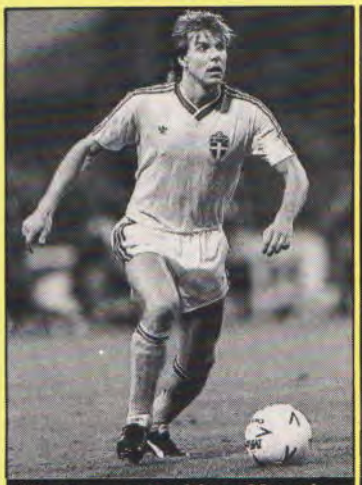
Malmo finished third with only 20 goals from 18 games, half of them scored by Martin Dahlin.

Djurgarden from Stockholm were the other club to make the play-offs.

The four who failed were Halmstad, GAIS, Oster and Sundsvall.

Oster were the biggest disappointment, having been expected to qualify, but they drew nine games and won only three.

Sundsvall brought up the rear eight points behind Oster.



Nilsson . . . scored from 20 yards.

Limpar . . . excellent solo run.

SWEDISH FIXTURES

25 August
Norrkoping v Orebro
Gothenburg v Djurdardens
AIK v Malmo

1 September
Malmo v Gothenburg
Djurgardens v Norrkoping
Orebro v AIK

8 September
Norrkoping v Malmo
Gothenburg v AIK
Djurgardens v Orebro

14 September
AIK v Norkoping
Orebro v Gothenburg

15 September
Malmo v Djurgardens

19 September
AIK v Djurgardens

22 September
Gothenburg v Norrkoping
Malmo v Orebro

28 September
Norrkoping v Gothenburg
Orebro v Malmo

30 September
Djurgardens v AIK

6 October
Norrkoping v Djurgardens
Gothenburg v Malmo
AIK v Orebro

13 October
Malmo v AIK
Djurgardens v Gothenburg
Orebro v Norrkoping

19 October
Norrkoping v AIK
Gothenburg v Orebro
Djurgardens v Malmo

27 October
AIK v Gothenburg
Malmo v Norrkoping
Orebro v Djurgardens

CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY ERIC BATTY

SPARTA STILL SLIDING

Kubik . . . his booking in Iceland means he will miss the "Bratislava battle" against the French.

CZECHOSLOVAK football has fallen from the dizzy heights of a successful World Cup a year ago to the point where their own fans and critics feel they are only a third-rate power now.

The vast majority of Czechs feel that if Sparta Prague had been drawn in UEFA competition with a club from Malta or Cyprus — let alone Rangers! — then the chances are that the Czechs would be beaten.

Sparta are in fact the only club in the country that can afford to take full advantage of the new freedom to sign full-time professionals.

But that is only because they sold seven players to clubs in the West, after the World Cup, and of course received seven transfer fees.

Dukla Prague, with such a proud history in international competition, are even worse off.

They have always been financially supported by the Czech Ministry of Defence, but under the new order, they are, like all other clubs, on their own.

Playing

The attendances they drew are so poor that despite playing home games at 10.30 on Saturday mornings this season — because most Prague folk go to their country chalets for the week-end — they will soon be broke.

Given five seasons, say the experts, and Dukla will be a Fourth Division club, and forgotten.

Slavia are the poorest of the Prague clubs, and their chairman says his club need to transfer one player each year to a Western club, in order to stay afloat.

The saviour of Slavia this year could be 24-year-old Pavel Kuka, a striker who scored on his debut against Denmark, had a good game in the friendly against Poland, and then scored the second goal away to Albania, in a European Championship qualifier.

Bohemiens are now a back number, after being the big crowd pullers in the time when Tomas Pospichal was the boss, and Antonin Panenka their favourite son.

Panenka has spent the last eight seasons playing in Austria, and even now, in his forties, he is still player-coach of a small team on the Czech-Austrian border, Hohensu ASC, who play in the Austrian Third Division.

After a heart by-pass operation, Pospichal is now a scout for Sparta, away from the stress of being in management.

Following

The season ended for Milan Macala, the new national team-chief, with the visit to Iceland, where the Czechs won 1-0. Iceland began defensively, but following an early Czech goal they then came out and dominated the game.

The Czechs were without Moravcik and Kadlec, two of their regulars, and as Macala said, his foreign based players were tired after a long season in which many of them had been exhausted by long battles against relegation.

The pitch was terrible he also said, particularly in the centre, and the usual strong wind made good football difficult. The Icelandic players produced a physical game, and Macala explained that Czech players are never happy with that mix. But optimistically he added that qualifying round games are for points, and they got both.

The worst aspect of the game, from the Czech viewpoint, was that Lubos Kubik got a second yellow card, and will miss the vital "Bratislava battle" against France, which will settle the Czechs' fate.

They have to win.

SOVIET UNION BY BOB VAUGHAN

Spartak's Shalimov...on target

Spartak edge CSKA

WITH the championship for 1991 well past the half way stage Spartak Moscow lead narrowly from CSKA who have a game in hand.

After the match in Kiev which kept Spartak at the top, Dynamo's Tzveiba and Loujni were involved in a motor accident, their Mercedes being a

HUNGARY BY BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

SIOFOK SIGN SIX

SIOFOK hope to set the "Balaton" on fire this season. They have one German, Andre Ritter, in charge of affairs, and another, Eduard Geyer, a former manager of the East German national team, having overall control of team affairs.

The club made more waves by signing two Bundesliga players, Stefan Menze and Frank Wolf, from relegated St Pauli, and four Hungarian internationals — Jozsef Gregor, the League's leading scorer last season, from Kispest-Honved, Pal Fischer (Ferencvaros), Zsolt Mariasi (Videoton-Waltham) and Jozsef Duro (Vasas).

Kispest, the champions, moved quickly to replace Zsolt Petry the national team goalkeeper, who went to Ghent for a mere £160,000 on a three-year contract.

Istvan Gulyas, 31, has been signed from Bekescsaba, while another 'keeper, Gabor Halmai, only 19, has come up from Videoton-Waltham, of Szekesfehervar.

Ferencvaros start afresh, hopefully with more discipline. Robert Koch returns after a period in Norway.

The club also scoured the Second Division ranks and came up with these bargains: Dezso Horvath, a goalkeeper from Baja, his team-mate Gabor Schneider, a forward, and Peter Deszatnik, from Kazincbarcika.

Raba Gyor, who host Hungary's friendly international against the Republic of Ireland on September 11,

Geyer . . . in overall control of team affairs at new-look Siofok.

have raided Veszprem and taken former international Gyula Piotar, Tamas Bimbo, Vendei Rugovics, Peter Bognar and Zoltan Vegh.

Veszprem have dismissed manager Antai Dunai: Iles Gazso, from nearby Ajka, replaces him.

UTE fielded their two newcomers from Pecs, Janos Tomks and Ferenc Lovasz, in the 3-0 away defeat in a pre-season friendly with Newcastle United.

The biggest loss may well be Zsolt Musznay, the Romanian who powered Videoton last season. He has gone to Royal Antwerp.

DENMARK BY JIM HOLDEN

Elstrup move sets

LARS ELSTRUP'S return to OB Odense sparked controversy as well as signifying a new trend in the transfer market.

After 30 years in which there has been an incessant stream of Danish players moving abroad to earn good money and improve their prospects of playing for the national side, the world has turned upside down.

The money is usually, better abroad, even now. But the real chance of playing for Denmark is significantly helped by competing in the domestic league.

Claus Nielsen was a national regular before leaving Brondby for spells in Greece and Holland. Then he drifted out of the scene, so now he has returned to champions Brondby.

He made an immediate impact, scoring the winner in the first game of the season as Brondby beat arch rivals Lyngby 1-0.

They had Henrik Larsen in their side, back from a successful spell with Pisa in Italy. Larsen also said that thr reason for coming home was to gain a regular international place.

The most controversial home-coming, though, involved Elstrup, who again had been jettisoned by Danish coach Richard Moller Nielsen despite being top scorer for Luton in the English First Division.

Elstrup's two-year contract with Luton ended in the summer and he wanted to return to OB.

The fee should have been an automatic £500,000 under the UEFA system used when a price is not agreed between the clubs.

OB could not afford that, while cash-starved Luton were not prepared to do a cut-price deal. Not at first.

Buying

Then came a dramatic move by Elstrup and OB. The player would "retire" for six months, and then be eligible under UEFA rules to play again strictly as an amateur.

There would then be no transfer fee, with Luton left high and dry.

Luton understandably protested to the English FA, who took up the case with UEFA. But the plan was strictly within the rules, although the Danish FA vowed they would monitor Elstrup's amateur status closely.

Eventually, Luton reluctantly accepted a £250,000 fee on the principle that something is better than nothing. But as manager David Pleat pointed out, the saga had tremendous implications for future transfer deals.

Pleat said: "This will make British clubs very wary of buying players from Scandinavia in future unless the rules are tightened up.

complete write off.

It was not a good day or evening for the Ukrainians. Spartak's goal, the only one of the match, by Kobelev, was laid on by the promising Leonenko who had nearly signed for Kiev a few weeks earlier.

Away to Dnepr, Spartak Moscow again won, this time, 2-0, to retain the leadership. Shalimov and Mostovoi got the goals while in Moscow, Torpedo were derailing Lok to the tune of five goals to nil.

Only 4,000 spectators attended the match. Now the trio at the top are Spartak, CSKA and Torpedo.

In the transfer market movement continues from east to west with the better players off to seek their fortune and further deplete the "Elite Class" which now comprises just sixteen clubs.

Spartak's up front man, Valeri Shmarov, last season's top scorer is on trial in Dortmund, Eduard Zon, third in 1990 in the list of goalscorers, is already at Ajaccio while Igor Shalimov is on his way to Foggia.

Contract

Benfica have offered Yuran, overnight the delight of Dynamo Kiev's supporters who had never heard of him a year ago, a contract.

He claims it will make him Russia's most expensive player ever, without any figures being mentioned! Without him the betting must be on another championship going to Moscow, in all likelihood to Spartak.

There will, however, be no "Double" as Torpedo put the leaders out of the Cup at the quarter final stage on penalties. Also through are Ararat and CSKA with one other tie still to be played.

In the Champions' Cup, Dynamo Kiev have drawn a comfortable opponent in HJK Helsinki but CSKA will do well to survive at AS Roma. Moscow Dynamo have an intriguing tie with European newcomers Vaci Izzo while Torpedo start their UEFA Cup campaign in Halle, now a Bundesliga 2 South club aiming to survive in German professional football

a trend

Elstrup . . . controversial transfer.

The FA took up our case when we asked and I hope UEFA or whoever deal with it can look into the matter."

Elstrup, like Claus Nielsen, made a scoring debut on his return to the Danish League, but OB lost 5-2 at home to Frem, despite his two goals.

Frem's new 21-year-old striker, Lars Brogger, scored a superb hat-trick.

While the return of so many quality players was heart-warming for the future, the gates on the first day sent a shiver down spines. They were almost a third down on the corresponding day of the previous season, despite the new "Superliga" format.

NORWAY BY SIGURD ODEGAARD

FYLLINGEN SET AN EXAMPLE

TWO of the three clubs representing Norway in this season's European cups are relatively inexperienced in international football.

Fyllingen and Tromso were quite successful on the domestic scene last year, and both look forward to first-round battles, with Atletico Madrid and FC Tirol respectively

Fyllingen were promoted only a couple of seasons ago and lost the FA Cup Final against Rosenborg last year.

In their first season in the top division they chose to play their home matches on their local artificial pitch, which caused a lot of controversy among other clubs.

This season, however, they abandoned the plastic and play in a stadium in Bergen. It doesn't seem that the change to normal grass has done the team any harm.

They still pick up enough points to safeguard their First Division existence. The success of this small club from the outskirts of Bergen is quite amazing.

Climbing

Less than a decade ago they played in the local Fifth Division. Then they started climbing and did not stop before they were in the top league.

A stable squad and the occasional supply of former Brann players, mixed with intense local support, made their success possible.

The club owe much of their success to two brothers, Per Ove and Inge Ludvigsen. The first is versatile, scores goals and helps out in defence when necessary, and Inge is the dominant central defender.

Tromso finished second last season, and the UEFA Cup challenge comes naturally for the club, who gradually have stabilised among the best teams in the country.

Newcomer Stein Berg Johansen has scored lots of goals and in midfield Lars Espejord is the driving force.

Central defenders Tor Pedersen and Tore Nilsen are strong in the air and new goalkeeper Tor Andre Grenersen has had a sound season.

Rosenborg of Trondheim did not have any luck with their draw in the Champions' Cup — no newcomers in European football could have been drawn against a more difficult opponent than the present Italian champions, Sampdoria.

After a poor start this season the Norwegian champions have picked up enough points to threaten Viking and Start at the top.

In August they won the final of the mini-tournament — the Million Cup — and thus earned the honour of meeting Liverpool in Oslo in a friendly.

Liverpool won 3-2, with Dean Saunders scoring the winner in injury time.

Striker Goran Sorloth, in devastating form again, scored all four goals against Brann in a recent 4-0 victory.

Newcomer Bent Skammelsrud has been free from injuries for some time now and finally shows some of his potential.

The European qualifying match showed that Norwegians were able to defeat Italy's top players, and Rosenborg are out to prove that this can happen again.

Realistically, only Tromso stand a fair chance of reaching the second round in the European competitions.

The other two, however, should be able to give their opponents a tough match in the home ties at least.

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FRANCE BY ANDRE DUCLOS

TAPIE STILL CALLING THE SHOTS

Cantona . . . happy in Nimes.

HIRING Tomislav Ivic, selling Eric Cantona and Dragan Stojkovic, moving in for John Barnes, David Platt, then Trevor Steven: life is never dull where Bernard Tapie is concerned.

Love him or loathe him, he generates what might be called an atmosphere of high-octane activity, even if some of his moves may seem illogical and dictatorial.

Managers seem to come and go almost at whim, as they tend to under the still more peremptory regime of Jesus Gil, president of Atletico Madrid. Which brings us back to where we started, for Ivic's departure from Atletico, whom he took to second place in the Spanish championship and — even if he had just departed — the Cup Final, freed him for Marseille.

Intended

Tapie had said he intended to appoint a well-known European manager who had won the Champions' Cup.

Perhaps he meant WILL win, because Ivic, in all his extended travels, all his various successes, has not yet annexed that particular trophy.

Sympathy for Raymond Goethals is mandatory. To arrive, as an old man from his comfortable cafe in Belgium, to take over a team in turmoil, win the championship and very nearly win the Champions' Cup as well, to get Marseille to the French Cup Final, was surely as much as any reasonable man could expect.

But nobody has ever accused Tapie of being that.

Ivic was in line for the Juventus job when Inter appeared unlikely to release Giovanni Trapattoni to take it. Then the puff of white smoke went up — somewhat north of the Vatican — and Ivic was out of a job.

Now he will no doubt have to win the treble which eluded poor Goethals, or he will be out as well.

Money still seems to be no object to

Ivic . . . in charge at Marseille.

Marseille, whether in the shape of an offer for Chris Waddle or John Barnes, or a £1.6 million crazy contract for Franz Beckenbauer.

What can be expected from wily old Ivic? Defensive football?

Perish the thought, he says, insisting that if he had been cautious at Paris St Germain, with a sweeper behind two stoppers, it was only because he had not the resources to be anything else.

Plus, he insists, the fact is that all sorts of teams started imitating his tactics thereafter. Well, maybe.

Ivic says that working with Gil at Atletico was impossible, a matter of always being kept in the dark.

No, he insists, it isn't just the same at Marseille; the club have built up steadily, bit by bit. Solidly.

Marseille, he says have so much talent that there can be no question of their playing a defensive game.

It would be suicidal to defend, he says, when there is such ability to attack. And this attitude has nothing to do with what Tapie wants. Indeed, it is slightly surprising that, given Ivic's negative past, Tapie should go for him.

All in all, French football is pretty buoyant just now, and it was quite a propaganda coup when two of the best young English players from the Lilleshall School of Excellence decided to join modest Auxerre.

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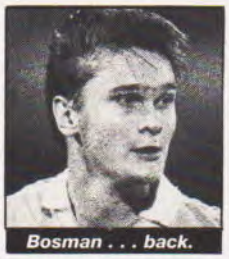
BELGIUM BY TIM COLLINGS

Bosman back on the scene

THERE was an air of new hope in the Belgian game with Paul Van Himst back in charge of the national team and Johnny Bosman back in Belgian club football with Anderlecht.

On the national scene, qualification for the 1994 World Cup is Van Himst's priority as he begins the task of rebuilding the "Diables Rouges" following their elimination from next year's European Championship finals.


Bosman . . . back.

The team's failure to overcome Germany and Wales effectively capped one of Belgium's poorest all-round seasons for several years. Only Anderlecht succeeded in reaching the quarter-finals of any of the European club competitions.

This year, Aad de Mos is back in charge of a squad pruned of foreigners in a bid to improve chances of success in the European Champions' Cup.

For Anderlecht, a European success would be a perfect way of marking the construction of the new Vanden Stock stadium, an ultra-modern complex for 28,000 spectators.

Dutch international striker Bosman's arrival ensures at least one international star De Mos can rely on.

"He had a bad time at PSV Eindhoven," said De Mos. "It was an accident for him, a mistake. I know him better (from their days together at Mechelen) and he will recover with us."

The prospects of a rewarding partnership with the exciting Ghanaian Nii Lamptey suggest Anderlecht will remain comfortably the strongest team in Belgium, particularly as they have been further strengthened by the signing of three internationals from Liege — Jean-Francois De Sart,

The reason, outlined by a colleague in a previous World Soccer, was they felt that the opportunities and facilities were immensely greater than those at even leading English clubs. Good for Guy Roux who has worked so long, hard building the infrastructure and the youth scheme of Auxerre.

That splendid midfielder Ferreri comes back from Bordeaux — forcibly relegated, alas, along with Nice and Brest, the cloud on our otherwise blue horizon while two forwards have arrived from the Second Division.

One is Baticle from Amiens, the other Deniaud of Ancenis.

Heavy spending has never been the fashion at Auxerre. Where would the money come from?

Nimes found enough to buy Eric Cantona and fellow international Philippe Vercruysse from Marseille.

Excluded

Vercruysse was excluded from the French national side, then having insult added to injury when his club dropped him as well, despite five goals in Euro matches. And Cantona has never been the easiest of players to get along with.

A stormy past lies behind him, and he tangled bruisingly with national team authorities when he objected, in public, to being excluded by Henri Michel, and was then suspended.

But he really did seem, on his return to Marseille last season from a spell on loan to Montpellier, to be linking well with Jean-Pierre Papin — allegedly off to Milan at the end of the current season.

Goethals didn't want Cantona and he is understandably bitter. He says however that he is really happy to go to a city like Nimes, even if it isn't his preferred part of the South. Leaving Marseille, he says, he feels pain for the way the people of the city are manipulated and treated.

"I don't say I am a genius, but I know what I am capable of" he says.

Marseille, he insists, are not a great club. If he thought they were, he'd give up. But they aren't, so he won't. True, he has joined not a major club but a newly promoted one, yet it doesn't worry him. "I'm with friends, it's good."

He's played for Auxerre, Marseille, Bordeaux, Montpellier, and now he can help Nimes achieve such heights.

Dany Boffin and Jean-Marie Houben.

Anderlecht also have the talented Brazilian youngster Luis Oliveira, who will qualify for naturalisation this year.

Mechelen, runners-up last season, have Georges Leekens from FC Bruges as coach and have signed Sweden's Kennet Andersson from IFK Gothenburg. He replaces Marc Wilmots, who has moved to Arie Haan's Standard Liege.

Expected

After leaving Nuremburg, Haan's task is to end Standard's five-year absence from European competition. He can be expected to inspire some much-improved performances from one of the few clubs regarded as belonging in the same league as Anderlecht, Mechelen and Bruges.

Anderlecht's hopes of European success cannot have been dimmed by a meeting with Grasshoppers Zurich, but they are unlikely to frighten Barcelona and the rest.

For De Mos and Haan, the task is much like Van Himst's —to re-establish an old order with new talent.

GERMANY BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

HEYNCKES FACES HIS TOUGHEST TASK

THE GERMAN season started as a national championship, covering clubs from west and east, for the first time.

Before the war the programme was regionalised until the final stages, and since the war the independent West and East German Football Associations ran separate leagues.

Now the all-German First Division of the National League has been enlarged from 18 to 20 clubs to accommodate the champions of East Germany, Hansa Rostock, and the runners-up, Dynamo Dresden.

Six other clubs have been admitted into a newly-enlarged Second Division, divided geographically into two groups of 12.

The last champions of the Bundesliga (West), FC Kaiserslautern, defend their title in an all-German league, and their greatest rivals will be last season's runners-up, Bayern Munich.

During the summer break three players left Bayern, but seven were hired.

Suffered

Former Hungarian defender Gyula Lorant, later a manager in Germany, used to say: "Only the hungry teams will become champions". Now Bayern appear to be the most hungry team in the country.

A second successive season without a title would be a personal insult.

Officially Bayern are "only chasing a UEFA Cup place", which they presently have, but hardly anybody, outside some club officials, is that modest.

Team manager Jupp Heynckes is facing probably his toughest season, and admits: "Our newly rebuilt team need time to click. Our defence was erratic in pre-season matches, but will become our strongest asset. We've also suffered from injuries.

"Problems are mostly created outside by the media. One must remember that, for example, Berthold has played a different type of game in Italy. I expect this side to challenge for honours."

Christensen (right) . . . Schalke's £1.5m striker signed from Brondby.

Kreuzer . . . cost Bayern £1.9m.

Heynckes was forced to rebuild the defensive block, and spent an amazing £1.9 million on Karlsruher SC's inexperienced Oliver Kreuzer — the most expensive signing in the Bundesliga during the summer — to replace Jurgen Kohler. He and Stefan Reuter are now with Juventus.

Heynckes regrets the exit of Dorfner, Flick and Kastenmeier, players "with character", as he says.

His statement did not go down well with the management, who remain responsible for player moves. But now the club have two equally strong players for every position.

Financially they have no problems.

The sales of Reuter and Kohler brought in £7m: the newcomers cost £4m.

Regarded

Yet of the 19 other Bundesliga managers, only seven think Bayern will win the title. But who else can be regarded as favourites? Werder Bremen, third last time, lack class in some positions.

They have two newcomers, midfielder Thorsten Legat and striker Stefan Kohn, both from VfL Bochum. Legat can play sweeper, too, while Kohn will be the central striker, because Klaus Allofs has dropped back into a midfield attacking role. Werder have stuck to their old formation and system, and their team work is outstanding.

Not many would bet on the two "easterners", Hansa Rostock and Dynamo Dresden, who lost their best players to the richer western clubs — the price of the new "market economy". Yet Rostock stunned the country by beating Bayern 2-1 in Munich.

Eintracht Frankfurt re-signed Norbert Nachtweih on a free transfer from Cannes. He knows German football, having played for Bayern as well as Frankfurt following his defection from East Germany.

Otherwise the squad is unchanged — Andy Moller's plans to play in Italy have not yet materialised.

Hamburger SV's financial problems were eased somewhat with Thomas Doll's sale for £5m, to Lazio. But his exit has weakened the team.

The Pole Jan Furtok, last season the Bundesliga's second best scorer after Bayern's Roland Wohlfarth, is isolated.

Fortunately the defence, built around Dietmar Beiersdorfer and the easterner Frank Rohde, look solid enough.

Koln perhaps could make an impact, if their new easterner, £1.2m midfielder Rico Steinmann (ex—Chemnitz) fulfils expectations.

Promoted Schalke, still the country's most popular club, paid £1.5m for the Danish League's top scorer Bent Christensen, and have engaged former international Gunter Netzer as general manager.

Referees in Germany are now showing a double red/yellow card. A player who has been booked, but has committed another, mild offence, is shown the two-tone card. It means a sending-off and an automatic ban for the next match, but without any further disciplinary measures being taken against them.

AUSTRIA BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

OGRIS DEAL IS OK BY FK

FK AUSTRIA were in an optimistic mood when the new programme began.

They celebrated 80 years of existence by winning their 20th championship, not least thanks to their former playmaker Herbert Prohaska, underestimated and often unjustly criticised as team coach.

FK's commercial chief, Juschi Walter, upstaged his rivals by "recovering" his pet player, Andreas Ogris, from Spain - at a huge profit.

Ten months ago Ogris went on loan to Espanol of Barcelona for £600,000.

With a proportion of this money the club signed Lithuanians Valdas Ivanauskas and Arminas Narbekovas, who were instrumental in winning the championship.

Hoping

The club now have these two and Ogris, at no extra charge!

The "Austrianer" are even hoping they can upset Arsenal in the Champions' Cup.

They were greatly encouraged by their startling 5-1 win in a friendly against Manchester United.

Meanwhile, FK's rivals have little to smile about.

The dethroned FC Tirol are building their hopes around a Ghanaian, Sarfo Gyamfi, who last season was not even good enough for the bench, but has now blossomed in spectacular fashion.

A big blow to Tirol was the departure of their striker, the Czechoslovak Vaclav Danek, for a meagre £224,000 to Le Havre. His replacement is a little-known Brazilian, Carvalho da Silva.

Rapid complain that they are in deep financial straits, and are weakened by the departure of the dynamic Costa Rican World Cup star, Hernan Medford.

Manager Hans Krankl played down their ambitions: "I am only looking for a place among the top eight" — but after four matches Rapid were topping the table.

Austria's oldest club, First Vienna, are tottering on the brink of ruin, three years before celebrating their 100th anniversary.

There is no money in the till, no team worthy of the name...only the bleak prospect of being the whipping boys in the First Division.

Ogris . . . back with FK Austria.

SWITZERLAND BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

SVAB MAKES AN ODD START

MANAGERS have made most of the news in the early part of the new Swiss season.

Grasshoppers, the champions, caused the biggest commotion when they tried to get Roy Hodgson, who is none too popular with followers of Neuchatel Xamax.

The Xamax president, Gilbert Facchinetti, had hopes of getting the national team's coach, Uli Stielike, to combine two jobs, but the Swiss FA refused to release him.

Insisting

With Facchinetti insisting that Hodgson should see out his contract, Grasshoppers gave their job to Oldrich Svab, the 47-year-old Czech who had been assistant to Ottmar Hitzfeld, now with Borussia Dortmund.

Svab's first game in charge was a 4-0 defeat by Aarau, but Grasshoppers hit form — and five goals — in their next match, against St Gallen.

Three more defeats followed in succession for St Gallen, without a goal, so fans were not unnaturally angry with their manager, Austrian Kurt Jara.

Hodgson, too, was having a thin time with Xamax, but at least he stayed out of trouble — unlike Friedel Rausch of Luzern.

Rausch lost his temper when international striker Adrian Knup was sent off for grabbing the linesman's flag after an offside decision.

On went Rausch to protest...off he went at once, shown the red card. A suspension and a fine of at least £1,200 will follow.

A Belgian, Jean Thissen, is now in charge at Servette, and another German, Wolfgang Frank, has gone to Wettingen.

The four First Division clubs who were eliminated in the championship play-offs all won their places back, so the 12 teams remain the same as last year.

Lausanne were the early pace-setters, with four straight wins and only one goal conceded.

ALBANIA BY GEZIM NUSHI

THE difficult situation in Albania, reflected in the country's political and economic crisis, has also had its impact on the country's football scene.

As a result of the massive exodus of about 100,000 Albanians to many countries in Europe, about 100 first division players have also left.

As a result of such a situation, the quality of many teams has fallen dramatically, as they are forced to include too many young players.

The most favourable market for Albanian players is neighbouring Greece. Striker Sokol Kushta of champions Flamurtari went to Iraklis for 13,000,000 dramis.

Other moves include: Anesti Arapi (Flamurtari to Iraklis), Lefter Millo (Partizani Tirana to Larisa), Artur Lekbello and Miral Josa (17 Nentori Tirana to Aris Salonika), Roland Iljadhi (Flamurtari) and Alfred Farko (Dinamo Tirana) both to Panachaiki.

Also moving further abroad are Sulejman Demollari (Dinamo Tirana to Dinamo Bucharest), Skender Hodja (17 Nentori to Samsunspor of Turkey) and Hysen Zmijani (Vllaznia to France's Ajaccio).

In the newly-created climate in Albania, 17 Nentori have changed their name to Sport Klub Tirana, as it was called in the 1930's, when it won six pre-war titles out of seven.

ALBANIAN FIXTURES 1991-92

1 September
Flamurtari v Partizani
Las v Besa
Labinoti v Tomori
Vllaznia v Lokomotiva
Skenderbeu v Apolonia
Ylli Kug v Traktori
Sktirana v Kastrioti
Dinamo v Selenica

8 September
Partizani v Selenica
Kastroti v Dinamo
Traktori v SK Tirana
Apolonia v Ylli Kug
Lokomotiva v Skenderbeu
Tomori v Vllaznia
Besa v Labinoti
Flamurtari v Las

15 September
Las v Partizani
Labinoti v Flamurtari
Vllaznia v Besa
Skenderbeu v Tomori
Ylli Kug v Lokomotiva
SK Tirana v Apolonia
Dinamo v Traktori
Selenica v Kasrioti

22 September
Partizani v Kastrioti
Traktori v Selenica
Apolonia v Dinamo
Lokomotiva v SK Tirana
Tomori v Ylli Kug
Besa v Skenderbeu
Flamurtari v Vllaznia
Las v Labinoti

29 September
Labinoti v Partizani
Vllaznia v Las
Skenderbeu v Flamurtari
Ylli Kug v Besa
SK Tirana v Tomori
Dinamo v Lokomotiva
Selenica v Apolonia
Kastrioti v Traktori

6 October
Partizani v Traktori
Apolonia v Kastrioti
Lokomotiva v Selenica
Tomori v Dinamo
Besa v SK Tirana
Flamurtari v Ylli Kug
Las v Skenderbeu
Labinoti v Vllaznia

20 October
Vllaznia v Partizani
Skenderbeu v Labinoti
Ylli Kug v Las
SK Tirana v Flamurtari
Dinamo v Besa
Selenica v Tomori
Kastrioti v Lokomotiva
Traktori v Apolonia

27 October
Partizani v Apolonia
Lokomotiva v Traktori
Tomori v Kastrioti
Besa v Selenica
Flamurtari v Dinamo
Las v SK Tirana
Labinoti v Ylli Kug
Villaznia v Skenderbeu

3 November
Skenderbeu v Partizani
Ylli Kug v Villaznia
SK Tirana v Labinoti
Dinamo v Las
Selenica v Flamurtari
Kastrioti v Besa
Traktori v Tomori
Apolonia v Lokomotiva

10 November
Partizani v Lokomotiva
Tomori v Apolonia
Besa v Traktori
Flamurtari v Kastrioti
Las v Selenica
Labinoti v Dinamo
Vllaznia v SK Tirana
Skenderbeu v Ylli Kug

17 November
Ylli Kug v Partizani
SK Tirana v Skenderbeu
Dinamo v Vllaznia
Selenica v Labinoti
Kastrioti v Las
Traktori v Flamurtari
Apolonia v Besa
Lokomotiva v Tomori

24 November
Partizani v Tomori
Besa v Lokomotiva
Flamurtari v Apolonia
Las v Traktori
Labinoti v Kastrioti
Vllaznia v Selenica
Skenderbeu v Dinamo
Ylli Kug v SK Tirana

1 December
SK Tirana v Partizani
Dinamo v Ylli Kug
Selenica v Skenderbeu
Kastrioti v Vllaznia
Traktori v Labinoti
Apolonia v Las
Lokomotiva v Flamurtari
Tomori v Besa

8 November
Partizani v Besa
Flamurtari v Tomori
Las v Lokomotiva
Labinoti v Apolonia
Vllaznia v Traktori
Skenderbeu v Kastrioti
Ylli Kug v Selenica
SK Tirana v Dinamo

22 December
Dinamo v Partizani
Selenica v SK Tirana
Kastrioti v Ylli Kug
Traktori v Skenderbeu
Apolonia v Vllaznia
Lokomotiva v Labinoti
Tomori v Las
Besa v Flamurtari

CYPRUS BY MICHAEL RAPHAEL

CLUBS have been busy in the transfer market with Pezoporikos of Larnaka smashing the record fee for local players by signing Salamina international defender Floros Nicolaou, scorer of a spectacular goal against Scotland in a World Cup qualifier, for £130,000.

Cup-winners Omonia have signed the AEL defender Constandinou for £110,000, and last year's runners-up, Anorthosis, have completed the signing of Alki's Tsangaris for £100,000.

Champions Apollon have been quiet, signing only Aris keeper Nicolaou for £40,000.

Promising

AEL and Salamina have spent large sums for promising under-21 internationals Antoniou and Rousos, £84,000 and £60,000 respectively.

The coming and going of foreign players has continued, with Omonia securing the Yugoslav duo of Tutic and Music, and Anorthosis signing Ketspayia from Dynamo Tbilisi.

But perhaps the boldest move came from 1990 champions Apoel, who engaged Yiatcjek Gmoch, manager of Poland in the 1978 World Cup, for a record £75,000 annual salary.

With Cyprus due to stage the finals of the European Junior Championships next May, everybody is looking forward to an exciting season.

TURKEY BY HASAN CEMALI

FOLLOWING their humiliating defeat by Iceland, Sepp Piontek's men have bounced back on their Scandinavian tour, beating Danish champions Brondby 2-1.

This was Turkey's first win under Piontek in 11 games, but hardly a cause for celebration.

Turkey started their tour badly with a 1-1 draw against the Faroe Islands, Ugur scoring for the visitors. Then came the disastrous 5-1 defeat by Iceland.

But, even without the injured Ridvan, Turkey looked a much better organised side for the match against Brondby, Muhammed and Ugur scoring.

On the home front, "foreign" transfers continue. Besiktas signed two Polish internationals, goalkeeper Bako and midfield ace Zeyer, both from Zagelbie Lubin. Bako, capped 24 times, cost £230,000 while Zeyer, 14 caps, cost £280,000, both on two-year contracts.

Trabzonspor, are negotiating with Brondby striker Frank Pingel, while Fenerbahce are considering a move for his teammate John Jensen.

Bako . . . cost Besiktas £230,000.

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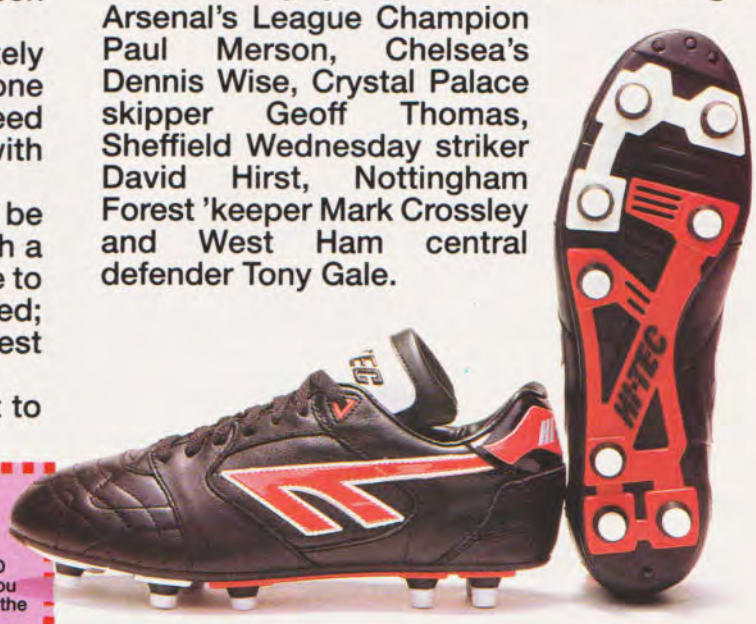

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Come on girls

SIR — THE first female World Cup will take place in China next November, and I expect it to be a huge success, judging by the standard of play I have seen on videos of the qualifying tournaments.

The girls need only a few more years, say the next two World Cup competitions, before they finally capture the hearts of many fans worldwide.

More attention is being devoted to the women's game, and the growth of professional female soccer in many parts of the world shows that the girls really mean business.

I strongly advise their male counterparts: watch these girls go.

— EMMANUEL EKHATOR, Bendal State, Nigeria.

Remember Pele?

SIR — I am a fan who values the days when Pele, Puskas, Platini, Di Stefano and many other great players made the game so good to watch. Now, we still have the same so-called brilliant names such as Van Basten, Vialli, Baggio, Matthaus, Klinnsman, Gullit, Mancini and Schillaci as well as many others, but we don't have as good football. In Pele's day teams went out to win , not to make sure they didn't lose. We have the players. Now all we need is the football.

— ROBERT McHARDY, Ballindalloch, Scotland.

Penalty clause

SIR — The question that has dominated cup competitions for years remains unsatisfactorily answered. Just how are you to divide two teams after 120 minutes of parity in a fair manner? Until someone comes up with a better suggestion to the one we have to endure at the moment, it seems that we are stuck with penalty-kicks. However, it may be possible to improve that formula, if only slightly. Instead of a team nominating five penalty takers each, why don't the whole team take one each? With this idea a team having had a player sent off would thus be at a disadvantage. Therefore, in theory at least, the team who had followed the rules and had kept players on the field of play would have an advantage if such a situation arose. Obviously if the teams were still tied you would have to use sudden-death kicks. The process would also take a longer period to complete but would at least be a slight, if only slight, improvement.

— MAURICE FITZGERALD, Waterford, Ireland.

Waste of money

SIR — Transfer fees in world football have blown totally out of order in terms of long-term value, all thanks to the "unrealistic" Italians. They obviously have far more money than sense. The proposed transfer fee of £5,500,000 for Paul Gascoigne from Tottenham to Lazio, is an example. It is obvious that Lazio have not thoroughly checked Gascoigne out, or I'm sure that they would not be determined to buy him for such a totally ridiculous price. Every club in Europe that produces a "good" player will hype him up and then put him up for sale to the Italians, hoping to get a few million for him. Another example is David Platt of Aston Villa, signing for Bari for a fee of £5,500,000. Because of Bari's craving for Platt, an average player by any standards, they are willing to waste every single lira on him. Press hype has a lot to answer for. I cannot help thinking that the English press are the worst. They have hyped Gascoigne and Platt to heights that they will not reach. Claims that Gascoigne and Platt are two of the most naturally talented footballers in Europe today are totally exaggerated. Gascoigne may be one of the best footballers in Britain, but as for Platt, he doesn't even come into that ranking. FIFA must stop this flow of "unrealistic" transfer bids and, if necessary, hold their own transfer fee tribunals if they think the fee is too high, which in most cases, it is. If they do not step in, the Italians will become the laughing stock of world football with nothing to offer but money. It was, obviously, the Italians that started this transfer fee madness when, in 1984, Napoli signed the great Diego Maradona for £6,900,000. But unlike others, Maradona was worth every single lira and paid his fee back within a year thanks to trebled attendances. I dearly hope that the Italian's can lower their transfer fees to more realistic levels in the immediate future.

—JAMES MCEWELL, North, Edinburgh, Scotland

Forza La Samp!

SIR — It is not often that I disagree with Brian Glanville but I must voice an alternative opinion regarding his comments about Sampdoria winning the Italian Championship (July). He points to the fact that they could not defeat Polish club Legia Warsaw as a reason for them not being a good team. I do not agree. When Arsenal were Fairs Cup holders in 1970 they had their minds on the "double" and played an average Cologne side, who knocked them out of Europe. Arsenal went on to complete their "Mission Impossible" and were an extremely good team. European elimination did not lessen that fact. Sampdoria had already played in two Cup-winners' Cup finals against top opposition and so are hardly new to success. Something has to give when attempting to win a difficult domestic Championship especially if it is a first-time achievement! Sampdoria have a very talented side, blending experienced internationals with youth, and Vialli did very well to recover from a disastrous World Cup. I believe it makes a refreshing sight to see the title go to them rather than the big guns of Milan, who rely far too much on their Dutch and German superstars for their success.

— PETER.J.COCHRANE, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff.

Viva Argentina

SIR — Congratulations to Screensport on their marvellous coverage of Copa America '91. Let's hope all those who criticised Argentina last year saw for themselves what a fantastic team they have now. Bring on the Europeans in 1994.

— DAVID ENZOR, Rotherham, S65 IPT.

Diehard too

SIR — I am a diehard soccer fanatic from the USA and I hope there are no rule changes for World Cup '94. There are fans here who love the game the way it is. Don't change the game to convert American "sportsfans". Some actually believe that the sporting world revolves around American football, baseball and basketball. There are many diehard fans and enthusiasts here who have to hunt for souvenirs and soccer news because our media thinks the game is "foreign". If that's the case then only England should play. Even hockey, our fourth sport, doesn't have a national broadcast contract for TV in the US. Why? Because it's a Canadian game! Anything not American will always be stamped on here. The media sees to that. The point is that there are fans in the US who love the game, but the media gives it no coverage, hence the lack of soccer "popularity". Use three points for a win and the world will be happy. Don't change the game on the account of short-sighted Americans.

— JOHN WRIGHT, Buffalo, USA.

PENPALS

SCHOOLBOY, 15, keen to contact penfriends who want to know more about life in The Gambia.
—Saikou Omar Bah, c/0 Botto Kujabi, Brikama BP Station, Lombo Central, Western Division, The Gambia.

FINNISH girl, 19, seeks penfriends, m/f, in any country. My hobbies are football, general sport and music. Please write in English.
—Hanna Pirinen, Koivukoskentie 17, SF—73500, Juankoski, Finland.

GIRL penpal wanted by 18—year—old boy, fond of reading and football.
—Bethel Nwokocha, 15 Nkrumah Street, Fegge, Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria.

PENPALS wanted, m/f, anywhere. I'm male, 17, and support Manchester United, Celtic, AC Milan and Sampdoria. All letters answered in English.
—Finbar McLoughney, Merton Hall, Borrisokane, Co Tipperary, Republic of Ireland.

LIKE travelling, music, and sport. I'm a 21—year—old girl and would like penfriends of either sex, 18—40, in any country.
—Valerie Chilipuieli, PO Box 6610, Dar—es—Salaam, Tanzania.

ENGLISH fans of Tottenham! Please write.
—Adedeji Adeyemi (20), Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

FEMALE, 16, supports Spurs, Rangers, Marseille, Juventus and Real Madrid. Also fond of tennis. I would like penpals 16—25
—Sharon Greer, 20 Brough Street, Aspatria, Carlisle, Cumbria CA5 3AT, England.

SCHOOL student, 17, fond of soccer, music, films and reading, wants penfriends.
—Badmus Johnson, PO Box 7007, Marinal, Lagos Ialand, Nigeria.

ARSENAL and Rangers fans, please contact 16—year—old fan. Write in English — girls for preference!
—Mark Davies, 142, Glenroy Street, Roath, Cardiff, South Wales, CF2 3LA

PENFRIENDS needed. I'm 17, male, fond of reading, music and sport.
—Offia Emmanuel Uzoma, 5 Patterson Street, Fegge, Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria.

WANTED — penpals all over Europe. I am 21, and like reading, music and videos. Please send a photo.
—Hannelore Morgan Manyanga, c/0 Mrs E.M. Manyanga, PO Box 860, Dar—es—Salaam, Tanzania.

GRADUATE in oceanography, 24, fond of soccer and boxing, seeks penfriends
—Prince Mosco Alli, block 87 flat 3, Iponri Estate, Lagos, Nigeria.

PENPALS wanted in any country. I am 30, fond of sports, radio and photography.
—Emmanuel Nartey, PO Box 33, Odumase—Krobo, Ghana.

ALL letters answered by soccer fan seeking penfriends.
—Olayemi Afolayan, 6 Akpan Crescent, Surulare, Lagos.

YOUNG Frenchman, 23, wants to correspond with girls and boys who follow London teams. Don't hesitate — even though my English is not perfect.
—Lurette Francois, 140 Rue d'Hennuin, 62370, Audroical, France.

LIVERPOOL supporter, male, 25, would like penpals, especially female. I'm also interested in body—building.
—M. Salem, 7 Knight House, Huntsman Street, London, SE17 1QN, England.

NORWEGIAN lawyer, 36, well travelled in Britain, seeks female British penfriend.
—Per Otto Borgen, PO Box 343, N—3001, Drammen, Norway.

STUDENT, 18, seeks penfriends in any country.
—Abdulahi Haruna, 6 Rotimi Street, V.a. De Facto, Otuelegbh Road, Surulere, Lagos, Nigeria.

PENFRIENDS wanted, particularly from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, France.
—Alex Benjamin, 15 Westwood Street, Bossley Park, 2176 NSW, Australia.

SUPPORTERS (m/f) of any team, please write in English or German.
—Marianne Vattonen (aged 17), Makitic 60, SF—61760 Jevesjoki, Finland.

SOCCER fan, male, 19, seeks penfriends m/f from Italy, France, Holland and Germany. All letters answered in English, French or Italian.
—Sean 0'Conor, 26 Parvis Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6HA,

ENGLAND. I'm a 15—year—old girl crazy about Italy, AC Milan and Inter. I'd like pen—pals from anywhere, but especially from Italy. Please write in English. All letters answered.
—Surina Panja, 5 Monks Way, Silverdale Estate, Wilford, Nottingham NG11 7FG, England.

LEEDS fan, 26, seeks correspondence from fellow fans living in Leeds, France and Scandinavia. M/f, 21 to 26. Will reply to all.
—Carl Branker, 36 St Lukes Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IGl 2JA, England.

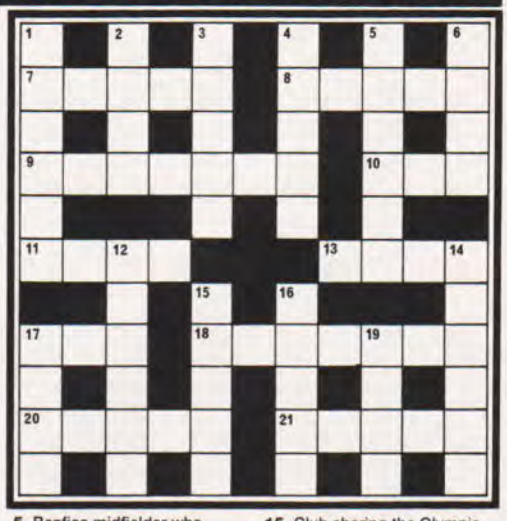
FAN of Liverpool, Stockport and Monaco, 22, seeks penpals m/f, worldwide. Doesn't matter who you support. Write in English please.
—Matthew Macariou, 4 Winster Grove, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 7RP.

STUDENT, 20, seeks penpals interested in English soccer.
—Tanase Adrian, Post Restante Oficiul PTTR 61, Sector 4, Bucharest, Romania.

ZAMBIAN male, 24, supports Tottenham and AC Milan, seeks penpals. All letters will be answered in English.
—Patrick Mwanza, c/o Mr T.K. Mwanza, Govt Printing Dept., PO Box 30136, Lusaka, Zambia.

WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD

Compiled by Christine Ansell



Clues Across

7. Swiss League club where Wynton Rufer made his mark (5)
8. Ex-Cobh Ramblers midfielder at Nottingham Forest (5)
9. Goalkeeper in Celtic's 1967 European Cup-winning side (7)
10. 1994 World Cup hosts (1.1.1.)
11. 1955 Third Division FA Cup semi-finalists (4)
13. Napoli's club colour (4)
17. N. Ireland 'keeper (3)
18. Familiar name of Scotland's Broomfield Park club (7)
20. Goalkeeping star of AC Milan's triumphant European side (5)
21. Sheff Utd forward capped by England in 1991 (5)

Clues Down

1. Manager of the 1966 World Cup Winners (6)
2. Reykjavik club - Icelandic champions, 1986 and 1989 (4)
3. Home of the old NASL's Roughnecks (5)
4. Cameroon 'keeper with experience at Espanol (5)
5. Benfica midfielder who scored the Portuguese winner v England in 1986 (6)
6. European soccer's governing body (1.1.1.1.)
12. Werder star transferred to 15 Down for £5.5 million in 1990 (6)
14. Germinal from Belgium's First Division (6)
15. Club sharing the Olympic Stadium with AS Roma (5)
16. Former Juventus midfielder appointed Glasgow Celtic's manager (5)
17. Bayern's scorer in the 1987 European Cup final (4)
19. Title attending Spanish clubs Betis, Murcia and others (4)

AUGUST SOLUTION

Across: 2.St Germain 6.Villa 7.Sayer 9.Rattin 10.Cork 12.Ayre 13.Werder 17.Sofia 18.Zenga 19.Carnevale

Down: 1.Bavarians 2.Split 3.Glavin 4.Russ 5.Atyeo 8.Roker Park 11.Meazza 13.Rufer 15.Dunne 16.Kane

WORLD SOCCER WINNER A HIT IN U.S.

Star guest Trevor Brooking gives our prize-guy Nick Judd a few basic tips before an attentive audience.

NICK JUDD, from Wokingham, Berkshire, who won a Coerver Coaching trip to Lake Placid in the USA (April competition), earned top marks on the week long course. Our prize-guy joined 250 boys and girls at Mountain View Soccer Camp to learn the skills of some of the all-time greats,including Franz Beckenbauer, Sir Stanley Matthews, Peter Beardsley, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Johan Cruyff, Gordon Strachan and Mark Hughes. Nick was also accompanied on the trip by WORLD SOCCER star guest Trevor Brooking and Managing Editor Peter Stewart. Among the 22 top class coaches on the course was former Charlton, Crystal Palace, QPR and England B striker Mike Flanagan. "The Coerver Method is great for youngsters because it is based on ball skills and can be practised by players at all levels, "says Mike. "The facilities at Northwood School's Mountain View camp are fantastic," says Trevor. "There is nothing like it in England. Mind you the weather helps. It is more unpredictable in England. I must say I have been impressed with the overall standard of the American youngsters on the course, especially among the girls. They are so enthusiastic it was a real pleasure working with them and Nick." Apart from the experience of learning the skills of the stars from a top star like Trevor Brooking, Nick earned a glowing report from his coach Nigel Smith. "Nick was an excellent pupil and showed intelligent use of the ball. He learned the moves and put them to good use in games. He will benefit greatly from what he has learned this week." Nick, who attends the Crystal Palace School of Excellence, is already planning a return trip to Lake Placid next year. Joining him could be another lucky WORLD SOCCER reader. Watch out for our Coerver USA '92 competition which will appear in the March or April issue.

Coerver Coaching director Alfred Galustian, Managing Editor Peter Stewart and Trevor take a breather with the boys in Nick Judd's Masterclass.

COERVER COACHING
adidas

*WORLD SOCCER thanks Coerver Coaching Directors Alfred Galustian and Charlie Cooke and all at adidas UK for sponsoring the competition and providing kit from their fabulous new Equipment range.

*You can learn more about the Coerver Coaching Method in the popular MASTERCLASS series which is featured regularly in SHOOT Magazine.

*There is also a great new Coerver video on sale now. Details from: Coerver Coaching, 3rd Floor, 15 Young Street, London W8 5EH.

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT: (REST OF WORLD) (EUROPE)

Extra-preliminary matches

11.09.90 Liechtenstein v Austria 0-6
16.10.90 Austria v Liechtenstein 10-0

CONCACAF

Group: Caribbean Zone - 3rd Round
(2 Teams Qualify)
Group winners & best runner-up go through

Group A

01.09.91 Surinam v Mexico
05.09.91 Honduras v Mexico
11.09.91 Mexico v Honduras
18.09.91 Mexico v Surinam
24.09.91 Honduras v Surinam
06.10.91 Surinam v Honduras

Group B

05.05.91 Canada v Trin. & Tobago 3-0
12.05.91 El Salvador v Canada 3-1
19.05.91 Trin. & Tobago v Canada 1-3
14.07.91 El Salvador v Trin. & Tobago# 2-0
28.07.91 Trin. & Tobago v El Salvador 2-0
31.08.91 Canada v El Salvador
#= Walkover

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Canada	3	2	0	1	7	3	4
El Salvador	3	2	0	1	5	3	4
Trin. & Tobago	4	1	0	3	2	8	2

Group C

23.06.91 United States v Haiti 8-0
14.07.91 Panama v United States 1-1
20.07.91 United States v Panama 7-1
25.08.91 Haiti v United States
21.09.91 Panama v Haiti
01.10.91 Haiti v Panama

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
United States	3	2	1	0	16	2	5
Panama	2	0	1	1	2	8	1
Haiti	1	0	0	1	0	8	0

ASIA
3 participants to qualify
West-Central Asia - 1st Round

Group A

30.08.91 Yemen v Pakistan
Qatar v Iran
03.09.91 Iran v UAE
Yemen v Qatar
06.09.91 Pakistan v Qatar
UAE v Yemen
10.09.91 Yemen v Iran
Pakistan v UAE
13.09.91 Qatar v UAE
Iran v Pakistan
17.09.91 Pakistan v Yemen
Iran v Qatar
20.09.91 UAE v Iran
Qatar v Yemen
24.09.91 Qatar v Pakistan
Yemen v UAE
27.09.91 Iran v Yemen
UAE v Pakistan
0l.10.91 UAE v Qatar
Pakistan v Iran

Group B
(Tournament in India)

18.08.91 Oman v India
Lebanon v Syria
20.08.91 Syria v Kuwait,
Oman v Lebanon
22.08.91 Lebanon v India
22.08.91 Kuwait v Oman
24.08.91 Oman v Syria
Kuwait v India
26.08.91 Lebanon v Kuwait
Syria v India

Group C
(Toumament in Bahrain)

19.09.91 Bahrain v Sri Lanka
S. Arabia v Afghanistan
21.09.91 S. Arabia v Jordan
Bahrain v Afghanistan
23.09.91 Bahrain v Jordan
23.09.91 Afghanistan v Sri Lanka
25.09.91 Afghanistan v Jordan
Sri Lanka v S. Arabia
27.09.91 Jordan v Sri Lanka
S. Arabia v Bahrain

EAST-ASIA
1st Round
Group D
1st Leg (S Korea/Seoul)

18.05.91 S Korea v Philippines 10-0
Bangladesh v Thailand 2-3
20.05.91 Malaysia v Philippines 5-0
Bangladesh v S Korea 0-6
22.05.91 Bangladesh v Malaysia 0-1
Thailand v S Korea 1-2
24.05.91 Thailand v Malaysia 4-1
Philippines v Bangladesh 8-0
26.05.91 Philippines v Thailand 1-7
S Korea v Malaysia 0-0

2nd Leg (Malaysia/Kuala Lumpur)

29.06.91 Malaysia v Thailand 1-0
S Korea v Philippines 7-0
01.07.91 S Korea v Malaysia 2-0
Thailand v Bangladesh 4-0
03.07.91 Bangladesh v S Korea 0-1
Philippines v Malayasia 0-5
05.07.91 Philippines v Bangladesh 0-3
Thailand v S Korea 0-2
07.07.91 Thailand v Philippines 6-0
Malaysia v Bangladesh 0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
S Korea	8	7	1	0	30	1	15
Thailand	8	5	0	3	25	9	10
Malaysia	8	4	1	3	13	7	9
Bangladesh	8	3	0	5	14	15	6
Philippines	8	0	0	8	1	51	0

South Korea qualify for 2nd round

Group E
1st Leg
(N Korea/Pyongyang)

15.08.91 N Korea v Nepal
Maldives v China PR
17.08.91 Singapore v N Korea
Nepal v Maldives
19.08.91 N Korea v Maldives
China PR v Singapore
21.08.91 Nepal v China PR
Maldives v Singapore
23.08.91 Nepal v Singapore
China PR v N Korea

2nd Leg
(China PR/Beijing)

26.08.91 N Korea v Nepal
Maldives v China PR
28.08.91 Singapore v N Korea
Nepal v Maldives
30.08.91 N Korea v Maldives
China PR v Singapore
01.09.91 Nepal v China PR
Maldives v Singapore
03.09.91 Nepal v Singapore
China PR v N Korea

Group F

08.06.91 Hong Kong v Taiwan 1-1
09.06.91 Indonesia v Japan 1-2
16.06.91 Indonesia v Taiwan 2-1
Hong Kong v Japan 3-1
23.06.91 Indonesia v Hong Kong 0-0
Taiwan v Japan 0-3
29.06.91 Japan v Taiwan 2-0
30.06.91 Hong Kong v Indonesia 1-1
07.07.91 Japan v Hong Kong 3-0
Taiwan v Indonesia 3-1
13.07.91 Japan v Indonesia 3-1
14.07.91 Taiwan v Hong Kong 0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Japan	6	5	0	1	14	5	10
Hong Kong	6	2	3	1	6	6	7
Indonesia	6	1	2	3	6	10	4
Taiwan	6	1	1	4	5	10	3

AFRICA
3 participants to qualify
1st Round

18.11.90 Mauritius v Somalia 1-0
18.11.90 Mozambique v Swaziland 0-0
18.11.90 Botswana v Gabon 0-0
30.11.90 Somalia v Mauritius 2-1
02.12.90 Swaziland v Mozambique 0-1
Ethiopia v *Libya

02.12.90 Gabon v Botswana 2-1
*Burkina Faso v Senegal
*Mali v Sierra Leone
*Gambia v Mauritania
*Congo v Togo

2nd Round
Group 1

Mauritius v **Zambia
10.08.91 Sudan v Egypt
11.08.91 Mozambique v Uganda
23.08.91 Egypt v Sudan
24.08.91 Uganda v Mozambique
*Ethiopia v Malawi
**Gabon v Cameroon
*Angola v Cote d'Ivoire

Group 2

10.08.91 Tunisia v Senegal
11.08.91 Algeria v Sierra Leone
11.08.91 Morocco v Mauritania 6-0
Liberia v Togo
Ghana v Guinea**
11.08.91 Zaire v Zimbabwe
23.08.91 Mauritania v Morocco
24.08.91 Sierra Leone v Algeria
25.08.91 Senegal v Tunisia
Togo v Liberia
Zimbabwe v Zaire
Undecided Liberia v Togo
*= Withdrew from tournament.
**= Suspended from tournament.

OCEANIA
0 or 1 participant to qualify

19.05.91 Australia v Papua NG 4-0
22.05.91 Australia v N.Zealand 2-0
26. 5.91 Australia v Fiji 7-0
19.10.91 Papua NG v Australia
28.10.91 New Zealand v Fiji
02.11.91 Papua NG v Fiji
06.11.91 Papua NG v N.Zealand
09.11.91 Fiji v N.Zealand
13.11.91 Fiji v Papua NG
16.11.91 N.Zealand v Papua NG
16.11.91 Fiji v Australia
23.11.91 N.Zealand v Australia

SOUTH AMERICA
2 to qualify
Group A
Brazil, Paraquay, Columbia, Peru, Venezuela.
Group B
Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Bolivia, Ecuador.
A tournament will be held in Paraguay from April 18 to May 10 1992

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP 1990-1992

GROUP 1:

30.05.90 Iceland v Albania 2-0
05.09.90 Iceland v France 1-2
26.09.90 Czechoslovakia v Iceland 1-0
10.10.90 Spain v Iceland 2-1
13.10.90 France v Czechoslovakia 2-1
14.11.90 Czechoslovakia v Spain 3-2
17.11.90 Albania v France 0-1
19.12.90 Spain v Albania 9-0
20.02.91 France v Spain 3-1
30.03.91 France v Albania 5-0
01.05.91 Albania v Czechoslovakia 0-2
26.05.91 Albania v Iceland 1-0
05.06.91 Iceland v Czechoslovakia 0-1
04.09.91 Czechoslovakia v France
25.09.91 Iceland v Spain
12.10.91 Spain v France
16.10.91 Czechoslovakia v Albania
13.11.91 Spain v Czechoslovakia
13/20.11.91 France v Iceland
18.12.91 Albania v Spain

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
France	5	5	0	0	13	3	10
Czechoslovakia	5	4	0	1	8	4	8
Spain	4	2	0	2	14	7	4
Iceland	6	1	0	5	4	7	2
Albania	6	1	0	5	1	19	2

GROUP 2:

12.09.90 Switzerland v Bulgaria 2-0
12.09.90 Scotland v Romania 2-1
17.10.90 Romania v Bulgaria 0-3
17.10.90 Scotland v Switzerland 2-1
14.11.90 Bulgaria v Scotland 1-1
14.11.90 San Marino v Switzerland 0-4
05.12.90 Romania v San Marino 6-0
27.03.91 Scotland v Bulgaria 1-1
27.03.91 San Marino v Romania 1-3
03.04.91 Switzerland v Romania 0-0
01.05.91 Bulgaria v Switzerland 2-3
01.05.91 San Marino v Scotland 0-2
22.05.91 San Marino v Bulgaria 0-3
05.06.91 Switzerland v San Marino 7-0
11.09.91 Switzerland v Scotland
16.10.91 Bulgaria v San Marino
16.10.91 Romania v Scotland
13.11.91 Scotland v San Marino
13.11.91 Romania v Switzerland
20.11.91 Bulgaria v Romania

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Switzerland	6	4	1	1	17	4	9
Scotland	5	3	2	0	8	4	8
Bulgaria	6	2	2	2	9	7	6
Romania	5	2	1	2	10	6	5
San Marino	6	0	0	6	1	24	0

GROUP 3:

12.09.90 USSR v Norway 2-0
10.10.90 Norway v Hungary 0-0
17.10.90 Hungary v Italy 1-1
31.10.90 Hungary v Cyprus 4-2
03.11.90 Italy v USSR 0-0
14.11.90 Cyprus v Norway 0-3
22.12.90 Cyprus v Italy 0-4
03.04.91 Cyprus v Hungary 0-2
17.04.91 Hungary v USSR 0-1
01.05.91 Italy v Hungary 3-1
01.05.91 Norway v Cyprus 3-0
29.05.91 USSR v Cyprus 4-0
05.06.91 Norway v Italy 2-1
28.08.91 Norway v USSR
25.09.91 USSR v Hungary
12.10.91 USSR v Italy
30.10.91 Hungary v Norway
13.11.91 Italy v Norway
13.11.91 Cyprus v USSR
21.12.91 Italy v Cyprus

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Soviet Union	4	3	1	0	7	0	7
Norway	5	3	1	1	8	3	7
Italy	5	2	2	1	9	4	6
Hungary	6	2	2	2	8	7	6
Cyprus	6	0	0	6	2	20	0

GROUP 4:

12.09.90 N.Ireland v Yugoslavia 0-2
12.09.90 Faroe Islands v Austria 1-0
10.10.90 Denmark v Faroe Islands 4-1
17.10.90 N.Ireland v Denmark 1-1
31.10.90 Yugoslavia v Austria 4-1
14.11.90 Denmark v Yugoslavia 0-2
14.11.90 Austria v N.Ireland 0-0
27.03.91 Yugoslavia v N.Ireland 4-1
01.05.91 Yugoslavia v Denmark 1-2
01.05.91 N.Ireland v Faroe Islands 1-1
16.05.91 Yugoslavia v Faroe Islands 7-0
22.05.91 Austria v Faroe Islands 3-0
05.06.91 Denmark v Austria 2-1
11.09.91 Faroe Islands v N.Ireland
25.09.91 Faroe Islands v Denmark
09.10.91 Austria v Denmark
16.10.91 Faroe Islands v Yugoslavia
16.10.91 N.Ireland v Austria
13.11.91 Denmark v N.Ireland
13.11.91 Austria v Yugoslavia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Yugoslavia	6	5	0	1	20	4	10
Denmark	5	3	1	1	9	6	7
Austria	5	1	1	3	5	7	3
N.Ireland	5	0	3	2	3	8	3
Faroe Islands	5	1	1	3	3	15	3

GROUP 5:

17.10.90 Wales v Belgium 3-1
31.10.90 Luxembourg v Germany 2-3
14.11.90 Luxembourg v Wales 0-1
27.02.91 Belgium v Luxembourg 3-0
27.03.91 Belgium v Wales 1-1
01.05.91 Germany v Belgium 1-0
05.06.91 Wales v Germany 1-0
11.09.91 Luxembourg v Belgium
16.10.91 Germany v Wales
13.11.91 Wales v Luxembourg
20.11.91 Belgium v Germany
17.12.91 Germany v Luxembourg

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Wales	4	3	1	0	6	2	7
Germany	3	2	0	1	4	3	4
Belgium	4	1	1	2	5	5	3
Luxembourg	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

GROUP 6:

12.09.90 Finland v Portugal 0-0
17.10.90 Portugal v Holland 1-0
31.10.90 Greece v Malta 4-0
21.11.90 Holland v Greece 2-0
25.11.90 Malta v Finland 2-2
19.12.90 Malta v Holland 0-8
23.01.91 Greece v Portugal 3-2
09.02.91 Malta v Portugal 0-1
20.02.91 Portugal v Malta 5-0
13.03.91 Holland v Malta 1-0
17.04.91 Holland v Finland 2-0
16.05.91 Finland v Malta 2-0
05.06.91 Finland v Holland 1-1
11.09.91 Portugal v Finland
09.10.91 Finland v Greece
16.10.91 Holland v Portugal
30.10.91 Greece v Finland
20.11.91 Portugal v Greece
04.12.91 Greece v Holland
22.12.91 Malta v Greece

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Holland	6	4	1	1	14	2	9
Portugal	5	3	1	1	9	3	7
Finland	5	1	3	1	5	5	5
Greece	3	2	0	1	7	4	4

GROUP 7:

17.10.90 England v Poland 2-0
17.10.90 Rep.of Ireland v Turkey 5-0
14.11.90 Rep.of Ireland v England 1-1
14.11.90 Turkey v Poland 0-1
27.03.91 England v Rep.of Ireland 1-1
17.04.91 Poland v Turkey 3-0
01.05.91 Turkey v England 0-1
01.05.91 Rep.of Ireland v Poland 0-0
16.10.91 Poland v Rep.of Ireland
16.10.91 England v Turkey
13.11.91 Turkey v Rep.of Ireland
13.11.91 Poland v England

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
England	4	2	2	0	5	2	6
Rep. of Ireland	4	1	3	0	7	2	5
Poland	4	2	1	1	4	2	5
Turkey	4	0	0	4	0	10	0

UNDER-21 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP 1:

29.05.90 Iceland v Albania 0-0
04.09.90 Iceland v France 0-1
25.09.90 Czechoslovakia v Iceland 7-0
09.10.90 Spain v Iceland 2-0
12.10.90 France v Czechoslovakia 1-2
13.11.90 Czechoslovakia v Spain 3-1
16.11.90 Albania v France 0-0
18.12.90 Spain v Albania 1-0
19.02.91 France v Spain 0-1
29.03.91 France v Albania 3-0
30.04.91 Albania v Czechoslovakia 1-5
25.05.91 Albania v Iceland 2-1
04.06.91 Iceland v Czechoslovakia 0-1
03.09.91 Czechoslovakia v France
24.09.91 Iceland v Spain
11.10.91 Spain v France
15.10.91 Czechoslovakia v Albania
12.11.91 France v Iceland
12.11.91 Spain v Czechoslovakia
17.12.91 Albania v Spain

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Czechoslovakia	5	5	0	0	18	3	10
Spain	4	3	0	1	5	3	6
France	5	2	1	2	5	3	5
Albania	6	1	2	3	3	10	4

GROUP 2:

11.09.90 Scotland v Romania 2-0
11.09.90 Switzerland v Bulgaria 0-2
16.10.90 Romania v Bulgaria 0-1
16.10.90 Scotland v Switzerland 4-2
13.11.90 Bulgaria v Scotland 2-0
26.03.91 Scotland v Bulgaria 1-0
02.04.91 Switzerland v Romania 0-2
30.04.91 Bulgaria v Switzerland 1-0
10.09.91 Switzerland v Scotland
15.10.91 Romania v Scotland
12.11.91 Romania v Switzerland
19.11.91 Bulgaria v Romania

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bulgaria	5	4	0	1	6	1	8
Scotland	4	3	0	1	7	4	6
Romania	3	1	0	2	2	3	2
Switzerland	4	0	0	4	2	9	0

GROUP 3:

11.09.90 USSR v Norway 2-2
09.10.90 Norway v Hungary 3-1
18.10.90 Italy v Hungary 1-0
18.04.91 Hungary v USSR 0-0
02.05.91 Hungary v Italy 0-1
05.06.91 Norway v Italy 6-0
12.06.91 Italy v USSR 1-0
27.08.91 Norway v USSR
26.09.91 USSR v Hungary
16.10.91 USSR v Italy
29.10.91 Hungary v Norway
13.11.91 Italy v Norway

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Italy	4	3	0	1	3	6	6
Norway	3	2	1	0	11	3	5
USSR	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Hungary	4	0	1	3	1	5	1

GROUP 4:

17.10.90 San Marino v Denmark 0-3
30.10.90 Yugoslavia v Austria 1-0
12.11.90 Denmark v Yugoslavia 3-0
21.11.90 San Marino v Austria 0-2
13.03.91 Yugoslavia v San Marino 5-0
03.04.91 Austria v San Marino 3-0
17.04.91 Denmark v San Marino 7-0
30.04.91 Yugoslavia v Denmark 2-6
04.06.91 Denmark v Austria 1-1
02.10.91 San Marino v Yugoslavia
08.10.91 Austria v Denmark
12.11.91 Austria v Yugoslavia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Denmark	5	4	1	0	20	3	9
Austria	4	2	1	1	6	2	5
Yugoslavia	4	2	0	2	8	9	4
San Marino	5	0	0	5	0	20	0

GROUP 5:

30.10.90 Luxembourg v Germany 0-3
26.02.91 Belgium v Luxembourg 2-0
30.04.91 Germany v Belgium 3-1
10.09.91 Luxembourg v Belgium
19.11.91 Belgium v Germany
17.12.91 Germany v Luxembourg

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Germany	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Belgium	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Luxembourg	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

GROUP 6:

11.09.90 Finland v Portugal 0-1
16.10.90 Portugal v Holland 0-0
18.12.90 Malta v Holland 1-4
08.02.91 Malta v Portugal 1-3
19.02.91 Portugal v Malta 2-0
12.03.91 Holland v Malta 7-1
16.04.91 Holland v Finland 1-0
04.06.91 Finland v Holland 1-7
26.06.91 Finland v Malta 3-1
10.09.91 Portugal v Finland
15.10.91 Holland v Portugal
16.10.91 Malta v Finland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Holland	5	4	1	0	19	3	9
Portugal	4	3	1	0	6	1	7
Finland	4	1	0	3	4	10	2
Malta	5	0	0	5	4	19	0

GROUP 7:

16.10.90 England v Poland 0-1
16.10.90 Rep.Ireland v Turkey 3-2
13.11.90 Rep.Ireland v England 0-3
13.11.90 Turkey v Poland 0-1
26.03.91 England v Rep.Ireland 3-0
16.04.91 Poland v Turkey 2-0
30.04.91 Rep.Ireland v Poland 1-2
30.04.91 Turkey v England 2-2
15.10.91 England v Turkey
15.10.91 Poland v Rep.Ireland
12.11.91 Poland v England
12.11.91 Turkey v Rep.Ireland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Poland	4	4	0	0	6	1	8
England	4	2	1	1	8	3	5
Rep.Ireland	4	1	0	3	4	10	2
Turkey	4	0	1	3	4	8	1

GROUP 8:

31.10.90 Sweden v Greece 5-0
21.11.90 Cyprus v Sweden 1-1
21.11.90 Greece v Israel 2-2
20.03.91 Israel v Cyprus 4-0
17.04.91 Cyprus v Greece 1-0
01.05.91 Sweden v Cyprus 6-0
16.10.91 Sweden v Israel
30.10.91 Israel v Greece
14.11.91 Israel v Sweden
20.11.91 Greece v Sweden
04.12.91 Cyprus v Israel
18.12.91 Greece v Cyprus

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Sweden	3	2	1	0	12	1	5
Israel	2	1	1	0	6	2	3
Cyprus	4	1	1	2	2	11	3
Greece	3	0	1	2	2	8	1

FURTHER UPDATE OF RESULTS AND TABLES NEXT MONTH

SUNDAY, JUNE 30
Jun 30 = Santiago - intl friendly
Chile 3 (Rubio 7, 26, Zamorano 44)
Ecuador 1 (Aguinaga 49)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Robles (Ch)
Chile: Toledo - Romero, Ramirez, Garrido, Gomez (Yanez) - Espinoza, Pizarro, Vilches, Contreras (Estay) - Zamorano, Rubio (Vera).
Ecuador: Ramirez - Capurro, Rivera, Tenorio, Guerrero (Uquillas) - Bravo, Aviles (Quinonez), Carcelen - Aguinaga, Garay (Fernandez), Munoz.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3
Jul 3 = Los Angeles/Coliseum - CONCACAF Gold Cup Gp A
Jamaica 2 (Wright 42, Reid 63)
Canada 3 (Mitchell 36, Miller 54, Limniatis 60)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 36,703.
Jamaica: Da Silva - Wilson, Corbett, Davis, Gaynor - Wright, Anglin, Palmer, Blair - Reid, Donaldson (Boyd 38).
Canada: Dolan - Gilfillian, Samuel, Watson, Diotte (Yallop 27) - Fletcher (Miller 438), Mitchell, Limniatis, Macher - Gilbert, Munson.

Jul 3 = Los Angeles/Coliseum - CONCACAF Gold Cup Gp A
Mexico 1 (Hermosillo 57)
Honduras 1 (Anariba 9)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 36,702.
Mexico: Chavez - Herrera, Esparza, Ruiz, G Munoz - C Munoz, Moreno (Zaguinho 46), Davalos (De la Torre 46) - Garcia, Hermosillo.
Honduras: Rivera - Zapata, Martinez Sambula, Castro, Anariba - Yearwood, Funes, Rochez, Calix - Benett, Dolmo Flores (Avila 46).

Group A Final:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Honduras	3	2	1	0	10	3	5
Mexico	3	2	1	0	8	3	5
Canada	3	1	0	2	6	9	2
Jamaica	3	0	0	3	3	12	0

Jul 3 = Los Angeles/Coliseum - CONCACAF Gold Cup Gp B
Trinidad & Tobago 0
Guatemala 1 (Espel 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,703.
Trinidad: Maurice - K Jones, Lee, Morris, Simmons (Thomas 58), Faustin - Latapy, Jamerson, Elliot, Allen (Charles 73) - F Jones, Lewis.
Guatemala: Engleton - Villavincencio, Acevedo, Miranda, Contreras - Westphal, Mazariegos, Castaneda (Remis 84), Espel - Rodas (Vargas 46), Guerrero.

Group B Final:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
United States	3	3	0	0	8	3	6
Costa Rica	3	1	0	2	5	5	2
Trinidad/Tobago	3	1	0	2	3	4	2
Guatemala	3	1	0	2	1	5	2

FRIDAY, JULY 5
Jul 5 = Los Angeles/Coliseum - CONCACAF Gold Cup semi-final
United States 2 (Doyle 48, Vermes 64)
Mexico 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 41,103. **Ref:** J C Ortiz (El S).
US: Meola - Caligiuri, Balboa, Doyle, Clavijo (Armstrong 83), Quinn, Henderson, Murray, Perez, Vermes, Wynalda (Eck 71).
Mexico: Larios - Hernandez, Herrera, Ruiz, Esparza, Munoz, De la Torre (Espinoza 57), Farfan, Galindo (Garcia 83), Alvez, Hermosillo.

The US ran up their first victory in 11 years over Mexico to reach the Final. This was their seventh successive undefeated match in a run which encompassed matches against top European club sides as well as national teams. Hugo Perez again held a decisive role - being involved in the creation of both US goals.

Jul 5 = Los Angeles/Coliseum - CONCACAF Gold Cup semi-final
Honduras 2 (Benett 37, Dolmo Flores 79)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 41,103.
Honduras: Rivera - Zapata, Martinez Sambula, Castro, Anariba - Yearwood, Funes, Espinoza (Rochez 77), Calix (Gonzalez 84) - Benett, Dolmo Flores.
Costa Rica: Conejo - Quesada, R Flores, Gonzalez, Marchena - Montero (L Flores 46), Arguellas (R Gomez 77), Berry, Ramirez - Medford, Jara.

SUNDAY, JULY 7
Jul 7 = Los Angeles/Coliseum - CONCACAF Gold Cup third place match
Mexico 2 (Farfan 9, Galindo 89)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 39,873.
Mexico: Chavez - Hernandez, Herrera, Esparza, Cruz - C Munoz (Davalos 74), Farfan, Galindo, Espinoza - Zaguinho, Hermosillo.
Costa Rica: Conejo - Quesada (Velasquez 19), R Flores, Gonzalez, Marchena - Chacon, Arguedas, Berry, Guthrie - Ramirez (Jara 51), Medford.

Jul 7 = Valparaiso - South American chp, Gp A
Bolivia 1 (Juan Barthy Suarez 17)
Uruguay 1 (Castro 73)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Maciel (Par)
Bolivia: Aragon - Rimba, Ferrofino, Saldias, Rivero, Castillo, Sanchez (Baldivieso 83), Melgar, Borja, Etcheverry, Suarez (Soruco 83).
Uruguay: Alvez - Sanguinetti, Revelez, Moas, Pintos Saldanha, Moran, Castro, Fracchia, Mendez, Lopez Baez (Gutierrez 71), V Lopez (Borges 63).

Bolivia started brightly under the impulsion of several ex-Tahuichi kids - including Suarez, who dive-headed them into a deserved early lead. Uruguay, strong and powerful as ever, eventually wore their way back on terms.

MONDAY, JULY 8
Jul 8 = Concepcion - South American chp, Gp B
Chile 4 (Hugo Rubio 15, Jorge Contreras 51pen, Ivano Zamorano 62, 74)
Peru 2 (Flavio Maestri 59, Jose Del Solar 71)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 21,520. **Ref:** Filippi (Uru).
Chile: Toledo - Mendoza, Garrido, Margas, Vilches, Parraguez, Pizarfro (M Ramirez 77), Contreras, Estay, Zamorano, Rubio (P Yanez 60).
Peru: Purizaga - Bravo, De Solar, Arteaga, Olivares, M Rodriguez, Barco, Alfonso, Yanez, Maestri (Cesar Rodriguez 80), Eugenio la Rosa, Hirano.

A highly-entertaining match in which Chile, the more consistently positive and skilful, deserved their victory. Zamorano, looking one of the sharpest of South American forwards on a rainswept evening, is rewarded with two goals.

Jul 8 = Santiago - South American chp, Gp B
Argentina 3 (Gabriel Batistuta 29, 51pen, Claudio Caniggia 43)
Venezuela 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Villavicencio.
Argentina: Goycochea - F Basualdo, Vazquez, Ruggeri, Craviotto, Astrada, Franco, Simeone, Latorre (L Rodriguez 78), Batistuta, Caniggia (Garcia 84).
Venezuela: Frasciana - Pacheco, Marcano, Jimenes, Echenaussi, Cavallo, Jaimes, Yantis, Fernandez (Gallardo 47), Maldonado (Castro 73), Rivas.

Argentina ran up a comfortable victory in a one-sided game. Batistuta shot them ahead after Ruggeri headed down a cross then Caniggia nodded in No 2 just before the interval from a Basualdo pass. Batistuta completed the scoring from a penalty after a handling offence by Roberto Cavallo. In the closing stages Goycochea was forced to make three sharp on Bolivia counter-attacks.

TUESDAY, JULY 9
Jul 9 = Vina del Mar - South American chp, Gp A
Uruguay 1 (Peter Mendez 47pen)
Ecuador 1 (Alex Aguinaga 43)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,430. **Ref:** Castro (Ch).
Uruguay: Alvez - Sanguinetti, Revelez, Moas, Dos Santos, Fracchia, Moran, A Gutierrez, Castro, Mendez, Borges.
Ecuador: Ramirez - Montanero, Capurro, Tenorio, Quinonez, Garay, Carcelen, Bravo, Muboz (Burbano 78), Aguinaga, Aviles (Guerrero 79).

A flat match which apparently further eroded Uruguay's hopes of regaining the title. Ecuador were unlucky when a Byron Tenorio header hit the bar. But they went ahead when Aguinaga burst into the penalty box and shot home low at the near post. That was just before half-time. Two minutes after the interval Uruguay hit back. Keeper Ramirez brought down advancing Castro and Peter Mendez rattled home the spot kick.

Jul 9 = Vina del Mar - South American chp, Gp A
Brazil 2 (Neto 5pen, Branco 47)
Bolivia 1 (Erwin Sanchez 89pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,430. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg).
Brazil: Taffarel - Cafu, Gottardo, Ricardo Rocha, Branco - Mauro Silva, Mazinho I, Neto - Renato, Careca III (Rai 46), Joao Paulo (Mazinho II 63).
Bolivia: Aragon - Rimba, Jiguchi, Ferrufino, Saldias - Borja (Pena 60), Melgar, Castillo, Sanchez, Etcheverry - Suarez (Baldivieso 46).

Brazil got off to an ideal when Bolivian keeper Aragon tripped Joao Paulo and skipper Neto rattled home the penalty. For all Brazil's dominance they failed to penetrate the Bolivian defence all the way to half-time and it took a remarkable swerving free kick from Branco to extend their lead. Substitute Rai shot over the top of an open goal in the 73rd minute. Then Bolivia pulled one goal back in the last minute as Sanchez converted a penalty after Gottardo had tripped Etcheverry.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
Jul 10 = Santiago - South American chp, Gp B
Paraguay 5 (Gustavo Neffa 34, Carlos Guirland 38, Luiz Moncon 75, 86pen, Miguel Sanabria 81)

Colombia's Perea (left) tangles with Caniggia of Argentina.

Venezuela 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Torres (Ch).
Paraguay: Chilavert - Suarez, Cristallo, Rivarola, Jacquet, Peralta (M Sanabria 76), Guirland, V Sanabria, Monzon, Neffa, Gonzalez (Cardozo 86).
Venezuela: Frasciana - Pacheco, Mariano, Jimenez, Echenaussi, Cavallo, Jaimes, Castro (Bottini 46), Gallardo (Yantis 56), Maldonaldo, Rivas.

Jul 10 = Santiago - South American chp, Gp B
Chile 0
Argentina 1 (Gabriel Batistuta 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Wright (Brz)
Chile: Toledo - Mendoza, Garrido, Vilches, Margas - Parraguez (Ramirez 17), Pizarro, Contreras, Estay - Zamorano, Rubio (P Yanez 58).
Argentina: Goycochea - F Basualdo, Vasquez, Ruggeri, Craviotto - Simeone, Astrada, Franco, Latorre (L Rodriguez 46) - Batistuta, Caniggia.

THURSDAY, JULY 11
Jul 11 = Vina del Mar - South American chp, Gp A
Colombia 0
Bolivia 0
Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Faria.
Colombia: Higuita - Herrera, Perea, Escobar, Osorio, Alvarez, Redin, Rincon, Valderrama, De Avila, Iguaran (Uzurriaga 73).
Bolivia: Barrero - Rimba, Ferrufino, Jiguchi, Saldias, Baldivieso, Melgar, Castillo (Sanchez 71), Etcheverry, Suarez, Moreno (Borja 69).

Jul 11 = Vina del Mar - South American chp, Gp A
Brazil 1 (Joao Paulo 29)
Uruguay 1 (Peter Mendez 66)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg).
Brazil: Taffarel - Cafu, Gottardo, Richardo Rocha, Branco - Mauro Silva, Mazinho I, Neto - Renato, Rai, Joao Paulo (Mazinho II 83).
Uruguay: Alvez - Revelez, Moas, Sanguinetti, Castro - Dos Santos, Fracchia (Alvaro Gutierrez 76), Moran, Mendez - William Gutierrez, Borjes (Cedres 46).

FRIDAY, JULY 12
Jul 12 = Santiago - South American chp, Gp B
Peru 5 (La Rosa 9, 55, Cavallo og 22, Del Solar 58, Hirano 62)
Venezuela 1 (Del Solar og 13)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Perez Hoyos (Ch).
Peru: Purizaga - Bravo, Arteaga, Barco, Olivars (Vidales 26), Del Solar, M Rodriguez, Yanez, C Rodriguez (Martinez 60), La Rosa, Hirano.
Venezuela: Frasciana - Pacheco, Paz, Jimenez, Flores, Jaimes, Cavallo, Yantis (Gallardo 46), Maldonado, Echenaussi, Rivas (Rodallega 37).

Jul 12 = Concepcion - South American chp, Gp B
Argentina 4 (Batistuta 39, Simeone 61, Astrada 70, Caniggia 81)
Paraguay 1 (Cardozo 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Filippi (Uru).
Argentina: Goycochea - F Basualdo (Gamboa 72), Vasquez, Ruggeri, Enrique, Zapata, Astrada (Giunta 77), Simeone, L Rodriguez, Caniggia, Batistuta.
Paraguay: Chilavert - Suarez, Rivarola, Cristaldo, Jacquet, Guirland, V Sanabria, Peralta (Cardozo 72), Monzon, Neffa, Gonzalez (M Sanabria 72).

Jul 12 = Cairo - African Nations qual
Egypt 5 (Hossam Hassan 35, 58, Ramzy 57, 60, 80)
Chad 1 (Samba Toure 18)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 50,000.

Central defender Hani Ramzi was an unlikely hat-trick hero as Egypt hit back for a victory which left them needing only a draw against Tunisia in their last group match to secure a place in next year's finals in Senegal.

SATURDAY, JULY 13
Jul 13 = Vina del Mar - South American chp, Gp A
Ecuador 4 (Alex Aguinaga 32, Aviles 42, 73, Ramirez 79pen)
Bolivia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 19,000. **Ref:** Castro (Ch).
Ecuador: Erwin Ramirez - Bravo, Montanero, Capurro, Quinones, Ron, Munoz, Carcelen (Burbano 75), Aviles, Tenorio, Alex Aguinaga (Garay 75).
Bolivia: Barrero - Jiguchi, Ferrufino, Saldias, Melgar, Rimba, Molina, Borja, Echeberry, Moreno (Baldivieso 46), Castillo (Medrano 75).

Jul 13 = Vina del Mar - South American chp, Gp A
Brazil 0
Colombia 2 (Anthony De Avila 35, Arnoldo Iguaran 66)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Maciel (Par).
Brazil: Taffarel - Marcio, Gottardo, Ricardo Rocha, Branco - Mauro Silva, Mazinho I, Neto (Careca III 46) - Renato, Rai (Luiz Henrique 46), Joao Paulo.
Colombia: Higuita - Herrera, Perea, Escobar, Osorio - Redin, Alvarez, Rincon (Alexis Garcia 75), Valderrama - De Avila, Iguaran.

Jul 13 = Ougadougou - African chp gp 4
Burkina Faso 2 (Ilboudo 21, Gnimassou 87)
Ghana 1 (Teteh 17)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,000.

SUNDAY, JULY 14
Jul 14 = Santiago - South American chp, Gp B
Argentina 3 (Diego Latorre 4, Nestor Craviotto 51, Claudio Garcia 58)
Peru 2 (Patricio Yanez 36pen, Jorge Hirano 67)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Oscar Ortube (Bol).
Argentina: Laneri - Altamirano, Gamboa, Craviotto, Carlos Enrique, Zapata - Giunta, Latorre, Mohammed - Garcia (Astrada 74), Medina Bello (Franco 81).
Peru: Purizaga (Palma 60) - Bravo, Arteaga, Barco, Vidales, Martin Rodriguez, Cesar Rodriguez, Alfonso Yannez, Del Solar, Hirano, La Rosa (Aguirre 66).

Jul 14 = Santiago - South American chp, Gp B
Chile 4 (Hugo Rubio 12, Ivano Zamorano 15, Fabian Estay 63, Jaime Vera 78)
Paraguay 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Wright (Brz).
Chile: Toledo - Mendoza, Garrido, Vilches, Margas, Ramirez, Pizarro (Vera 70), Yanez, Estay, Zamorano, Rubio (Basay 71).
Paraguay: Chilavert - Barrios, Rivarola (Cristaldo 15), Zabala, Suarez, Guirland, Vidal Sanabria, Monzon, Neffa (Cardozo 63), Struway, Gabriel Gonzalez.

Jul 14 = Yaounde - African Nations qual
Cameroon 1 (Eugene Ekeke 80)
Sierra Leone 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 60,000.

Jul 14 = Lome - African Nations qual
Togo 2 (Amegnizin 57, Fiawoo 70pen)
Benin 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000.

Jul 14 = Libreville - African Nations qual
Gabon 1 (Guy Anotho 37)
Tanzania 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000.

Jul 14 = Kinshasa - African Nations qual
Zaire 1 (Balenga 75pen)
Uganda 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 70,000.

Jul 14 = Harare - African Nations qual
Zimbabwe 2 (McKop 9, Peter Ndlovu 78)
Congo 2 (Makita 40, Ndomba 89)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 60,000.

Jul 14 = Nairobi - African Nations qual
Kenya 1 (Peter Mwololo 32)
Mozambique 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000.

Tragedy followed the match. One fan was killed and 24 others injured shortly after the start in a stampede which followed an order from Kenya President Daniel arap Moi, that the gates be opened to allow in, free of charge, around 15,000 fans who had been waiting, ticketless, outside.

Jul 14 = Lusaka - African Nations qual
Zambia 2 (Musonda 20, Bwalya 38)
Madagascar 1 (Henry 49)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 50,000.
Jul 14 = Conakry - African Nations qual
Guinea 2 (Fode Camara 17, Abubucar Titi Camara 70)
Mali 1 (Adama Kubilay 75)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,000.

MONDAY, JULY 15
Jul 15 = Vina del Mar - South American chp, Gp A
Uruguay 1 (Peter Mendez 15)
Colombia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
Uruguay: Alvez - Sanguinetti, Moas, Revelez, Dos Santos, Castro (Lopez 67), Fracchia, Moran, Mendez, *Alvaro Gutierrez, Cedres (Sanchez 46). *A Gutierrez sent off, 39min.
Colombia: Higuita - Herrera, Perea, Escobar, Osorio, Pimental, Alvarez, Rincon, Valderrama, *De Avila, Iguaran (Valenciano 79). *De Avila sent off, 85min.

Jul 15 = Vina del Mar - South American chp, Gp A
Brazil 3 (Mazinho II 8, Marcio Santos 54, Luiz Henrique 89)
Ecuador 1 (Munoz 12)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Escobar (Par)
Brazil: Taffarel - Mazinho, Marcio, Ricardo - Rocha, Branco - Mauro Silva, Marcio Santos, Neto (Luiz Henrique 67), Mazinho II - Silvio Cesar (Careca III 74), Joao Paulo.
Ecuador: Ramirez - Montanero, Tenorio, Capurro, Quinonez, bravo, Carcelen (Garay 67), Ron (Burbano 67), Munoz, Aviles, Aguinaga.

Jul 15 = Luanda - African Nations qual
Angola 1 (Felito 40pen)
Swaziland 1 (Dance Matse 48)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000.

Jul 15 = Thorshavn - intl friendly
Faroe Islands 1 (Jonsson 49)
Turkey 1 (Hami 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,500. **Ref:** Karlsson (Swe)
Faroes: Knudsen - Jakobsen, T Hansen, Danielsen, Thomassen, Dam - Jonsson, Jarnskor, A Hansen, Reynheim - Rasmussen.
Turkey: Hayrettin - Recep, Bulent, Gokhan - Riza, Oguz, Muhammed, Mehmet (Tugay 65), Unal - Tanju (Hami 65), Ali az 65).

An excellent result for the Faroes, given that the Turks were below strength and out-of-practice. The result marked the start of a delightful 24 hours for the Faroes. The following day UEFA confirmed that they could, after all, use their new turf home pitch for European championship ties as long as safety and security regulations could be met.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17
Jul 17 = Santiago - South American chp, 2nd rnd
Argentina 3 (Dario Franco 1, 39, Gabriel Batistuta 46)
Brazil 2 (Branco 5, Joao Paulo 52)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Maciel (Par).
Argentina: Goycochea - F Basualdo, Vazquez, Ruggeri, *Enrique, Astrada, Franco, Simeone, L Rodriguez (Giunta 79), Batistuta, *Caniggia. Caniggia sent off 31min, Enrique sent off 61min.
Brazil: Taffarel - *Mazinho, Marcio, Ricardo Rocha, Branco - Mauro Silva, *Marcio Santos, Neto, Silvio Cesar (Renato 46) - Luiz Henrique, Joao Paulo (*Careca III 75). *Mazinho sent off 31min, Marcio Santos sent off 61min, Careca III sent off 77min.

The opening match of the final round produced an explosive start. Argentina scored after exactly one minute when Franco headed in a Leonardo Rodriguez corner from the right. Brazil looked shattered but recovered their aplomb in dramatic style - Branco thundering home a 35-yard free kick. Referee Maciel's attempts, with the red card, to prevent a repetition of the bad-tempered mayhem in the 'friendly' which preceded the finals, were of litle effect. Both teams were progressively reduced in personnel (Brazil losing three men, Argentina two) but the Argentines coped better both physically and temperamentally. Six minutes before half-time Franco headed them back in front from a left-wing cross by Leonardo Rodriguez. Rodriguez was again the creator when Batistuta's header caught out Brazil at the start of the second half. Again the title-holders hit back fast, this time through Joao Paulo. But that proved virtually their last flourish and Argentina thoroughly deserved a victory which them as favourites.

Jul 17 = Santiago - South American chp, 2nd rnd
Chile 1 (Zamorano 74)
Colombia 1 (Iguaran 37)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Filippi (Uru)
Chile: Toledo - Mendoza, Garrido, Vilches, Margas, Ramirez, Pizarro (Vera 73), Estay, Yanez, Zamorano, Rubio (Contreras 62).
Colombia: Higuita - Herrera (Cabrera 55), Perea, Escobar, Opsorio, Pimtental, Alvarez, Rincon, Valderrama, Uzurriaga, Iguaran (Valenciano 57).

Jul 17 = Reykjavik - intl friendly
Iceland 5 (Gretarsson 2, Gudjohnsen 24, 34, 44, 64)
Turkey 1 (Unal 14)
HT: 4-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Iceland: Fridriksson - Tomasson, Edvaldsson, Jonsson, Bergsson - S Gretarsson, Gudgeirsson, Thordarsson, Gretarsson - Gudjohnsen, Dadasson.
Turkey: Engin - Recep, Ogun, Gokhan - Tugay, Riza (Bulent 46), Abdullah (Oguz 67), Unal - Ugur, Ridvan (Feyyaz 88), Hami.

Continued over

FRIDAY, JULY 19
Jul 19 = Santiago -
South American chp, 2nd rnd
Chile 0
Argentina 0
Att: 65,000. **Ref:** Filippi (Uru)
Chile: Toledo - Espinoza (Basay 77), Garrido, Vilches, Margas, Ramirez, Pizarro, Estay (Contreras 68). *Yanez, Zamorano, Rubio.
*Yanez sent off 41min.
Argentina: Goycochea - F Basualdo, Ruggeri, Vazquez, Altamirano, Astrada, Franco, Simeone, Rodriguez (Giunta 85), Batistuta, Medina Bello.

Jul 19 = Santiago -
South American chp, 2nd rnd
Brazil 2 (Renato 29, Branco 75)
Colombia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Ramirez (Peru)
Brazil: Taffarel - Cafu, Marcio Santos, Ricardo Rocha, Branco - Mauro Silva, Valdir, Mazinho II, Renato - Luiz Henrique, Joao Paulo.
Colombia: Higuita - Cabrera, Perea, Escobar, Osorio, Pimtental, Alvarez, Rincon, Valderrama, Uzumaga, De Avila.

SUNDAY, JULY 21
Jul 21 = Santiago -
South American chp, 2nd rnd
Chile 0
Brazil 2 (Mazinho II 8, Luiz Henrique 56)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol)
Chile: Toledo - Mendoza, Garrido, Vilches, Margas, Ramirez (Vera 75), Pizarro, Estay (Basay 46), Contreras, Zamorano, Rubio.
Brazil: Taffarel - Cafu, Ricardo Rocha, Marcio Santos, Branco - Mauro Silva, Mazinho, Mazinho II, Renato (Valdir 72), Luiz Henrique (Neto 88), Joao Paulo.

Brazil's victory was enough only to see them finish runners-up. Coach Falcao left the Estadio Nacional knowing that his term in charge might well be over.

Jul 21 = Santiago -
South American chp, 2nd rnd
Argentina 2 (Simeone 9, Batistuta 20)
Colombia 1 (De Avila 69)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Escobar.
Argentina: Goycochea - F Basualdo, Vazquez, Ruggeri, Altamirano - Simeone, Franco, Astrada, L Rodriguez (Giunta 70) - Caniggia, Batistuta.
Colombia: Higuita - Cabrera, Perea, Escobar, Osorio, Alvarez, Pimental, Rincon (Valenciano 55), Valderrama, De Avila, Uzumaga (Redin 48).

Argentina needed a simple victory to win the cup. They quickly seized a two-goal lead. But the heavy pitch and tournament fatigue gradually slowed them down and took their legs. Colombia pulled one goal through De Avila midway through the second half and Argentina teetering on the brink of disaster as they struggled through to the final whistle and overall victory. Boca centre forward Gabriel Batistuta scored Argentina's all-important second goal to land the crown as the tournament's six-goal top marksman.

Final group:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	3	2	1	0	5	2	5
Brazil	3	2	0	1	6	3	4
Chile	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Colombia	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

MEDITERRANEAN GAMES
ATHENS.-.Third place:
Morocco 3, Yugoslavia 2.
Final: Greece 3, Turkey 1.

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP
Semi-finals:
Norway 0, Denmark 0 (8-7 pens);
Germany 3, Italy 0.
Third pl: Denmark 2, Italy 1.
Final: Germany 3, Norway 1.

CLUB TOURNAMENTS
BERN.- Brondby 0, Stuttgart 1; Young Boys 1, Flamengo 1. **Third pl:** Young Boys 2, Brondby 1. **Final:** Stuttgart 5, Flamengo 1.
BRUHL: Grenchen 1, Sion 3; Koln 1, Olimpia Poznan 0. **Third pl:** Poznan 5, Grenchen 5 (4-3pens). **Final:** Koln 1, Sion 1 (7-6pens).
PARIS.- Final: Marseille 1, Flamengo 0.

WORLD STUDENT GAMES (Sheffield)
Semi-finals: Holland 1, Britain 0;
South Korea 4, Uruguay 1.
Third pl: Britain 2, Uruguay 1.
Final: S Korea 0, Holland 0 (5-4 pens).

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL CUP
(Inter-Toto)
Final groups and points
Group 1: Neuchatel Xamax 10; Slovan 5; Malmo 5; Tatabanya 4.
Group 2: Lausanne 10;Lyngby 8; Zaglebie Lubin 5; Norrkoping 1.
Group 3: Salzburg 10; FC Halle 7; Vaci Izzo 5; Ikast 2.
Group 4: Dukla BB 10; Silkeborg 8; Hammarby 4; Energie Cottbus 2.
Group 5: B1903 10; FK Austria 8; Djurgarden 3; Union Eger 3.
Group 6: Grasshoppers 5; Siofok 4; Frem 3.
Group 7: Bayer Uerdingen 7; Pirin 6; Osters Vaxjo 6; Sturm Graz 5.
Group 8: Dunajska Streda 6; Rapid Bucharest 4; Botev Plovdiv 2.
Group 9: Tirol 8; Lugano 4; Buducnost Titograd 2; Sportul 2.
Group 10: Orebro 11; Saarbrucken 8; Maccabi Haifa 4; Hapoel PT 1.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS
June 25 - Penarol (Uruguay) 1 Toshiba (Japan) 1; July 2 - Saprissa (Costa Rica) 4 Olimpia (Honduras) 3; July 6 - Boca Juniors reserves (Argentina) 4 Toshiba (Japan) 2

SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE TABLES

ARGENTINA: National A Division (2nd round, final standings)

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Boca Juniors	19	13	6	0	32	6	32
San Lorenzo	19	11	5	3	29	18	27
Racing Club	19	9	5	5	23	21	23
Dep. Mandiyu	19	8	7	4	20	13	23
Independiente	19	6	10	3	22	15	22
Velez	19	7	7	5	25	22	21
Huracan	19	7	7	5	16	16	21
Newell's	19	6	8	5	21	14	20
River Plate	19	4	11	4	19	19	19
Estudiantes	19	6	7	6	18	15	19
Platense	19	5	9	5	11	15	19
Union SF	19	3	12	4	21	26	18
Lanus	19	5	8	6	15	16	18
Gimnasia	19	4	9	6	16	22	17
Rosario	19	4	8	7	15	23	16
FC Oeste	19	2	11	6	15	20	15
Dep. Espanol	19	4	6	9	22	25	14
Arg. Juniors	19	3	7	9	19	30	13
Chaco	19	1	10	8	15	26	12
Talleres	19	4	3	12	24	34	11

First round winners Newell's Old Boys beat second round winners Boca Juniors for the title on penalties after each won home tie 1-0. Chaco For Ever and Lanus relegated with worst relegation averages — average points obtained over last three seasons.

ECUADOR; First Division (1st stage - final)
After 22 games: 1) Barcelona 33 points; 2) Nacional 29; 3) Liga Deportiva Universitaria, Valdez 27; 5) Emelec 23; 6) Dep. Quito, Tecnico Universitario 21; 8) Cuenca, Universidad Catolica 19; 10) Juvenil 18; 11) Delfin 14; 12) Macara 13. (Macara relegated to second division and replaced by Green Cross (promotion winners) for second stage.

PARAGUAY - First Division After 6 games 1) Olimpia 10 points; 2) Cerro Cora, Libertad 9; 4) Cerro Porteno 8; 5) River Plate 6; 6) Guarani, Nacional, Atletico Colegiales 5; 9) Sportivo Luqueno, Sol de America, Sport Colombia 4; 12) San Lorenzo 3.

EL SALVADOR - First Division (final round):1) Luis Angel Firpo, 2) Aguila 7 _ to play off for title; 3) Alianza 7 (inferior goals difference); 4) Marte 3.

GUATEMALA - First Division, Group 1: 1) Comunicaciones 12 pts; 2) Dep. Izabal, Galcasa, Del Monte 8; 5) Tipografia Nacional 4; 6) Aurora 2.Group 2 - 1) Juventud Retalteca 12; 2) Municipal 10; 3) Escuintla 8; 4) Chiquimulilla 6; 5) Xelaju 4; 6) Suchitepequez 2.

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EUROPEAN LEAGUE TABLES

Werder v Bayern.

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hansa R	3	3	0	0	11	2	6
Hamburg	3	2	1	0	5	2	5
Bayern	4	2	1	1	6	5	5
B Dortmund	4	2	1	1	8	9	5
Eintracht	3	2	0	1	8	3	4
Werder Bremen	4	1	2	1	5	4	4
Kaiserslautern	3	1	2	0	3	2	4
Duisburg	3	1	2	0	1	0	4
Leverkusen	3	2	0	1	2	3	4
Kickers St	3	1	1	1	3	1	3
Karlsruhe	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Koln	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
Wattenscheid	3	1	1	1	3	3	3
Stuttgart	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
Dresden	4	1	1	2	3	5	3
Nurnberg	4	1	1	2	4	7	3
Schalke	4	1	1	2	3	8	3
Bochum	3	0	2	1	5	6	2
Borussia Mg	4	0	1	3	0	5	1
Dusseldorf	4	0	0	4	3	9	0

ICELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
KR	10	6	3	1	22	5	21
Fram	9	6	1	2	13	8	19
IBV	10	5	1	4	17	14	16
UBK	10	4	4	2	16	13	16
Vikingur	10	5	0	5	16	17	15
Valur	10	4	2	4	14	14	14
FH	10	4	2	4	12	12	14
Stjarnan	10	3	3	4	13	16	12
KA	10	3	1	6	8	13	10
Vidir	11	0	3	8	9	28	3

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid	5	4	1	0	13	4	9
A. Salzburg	5	4	0	1	8	5	8
F.K.Austria	5	3	1	1	9	7	7
Stahl Linz	5	2	2	1	8	6	6
Tirol	5	2	1	2	10	7	5
Krems	5	2	1	2	8	8	5
Admira	5	1	3	1	4	4	5
Vorwarts	5	2	0	3	7	6	4
Sturm	5	2	0	3	6	7	4
Vienna	5	1	2	2	5	6	4
St Polten	5	1	0	4	4	12	2
Alpine	5	0	1	4	4	14	1

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AaB	3	2	1	0	5	3	5
B1903	3	2	0	1	9	5	4
Vejle	3	2	0	1	7	5	4
Lyngby	3	2	0	1	5	3	4
Brondby	3	1	2	0	3	2	4
Frem	3	1	0	2	7	7	2
Naestved	3	1	0	2	3	3	2
AGF	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Silkeborg	3	1	0	2	2	6	2
OB	3	0	1	2	3	8	1

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lausanne	5	4	1	0	12	2	9
Sion	5	4	1	0	9	2	9
Grasshoppers	5	3	1	1	9	6	7
Luzern	5	3	0	2	7	5	6
Aarau	5	2	1	2	7	9	5
Neuchatel	5	2	0	3	8	5	4
Young Boys	5	2	0	3	9	8	4
Zurich	5	1	2	2	5	5	4
Wettingen	5	1	2	2	5	7	4
Servette	5	1	1	3	3	5	3
Lugano	5	1	1	3	6	15	3
St Gallen	5	1	0	4	1	12	2

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IFK	17	9	5	3	29	14	32
Orebro	17	8	6	3	23	16	30
Malmo	17	7	7	3	20	14	28
AIK	17	6	6	5	19	14	24
Djurgardens	17	5	7	5	26	25	22
Norrkoping	17	5	6	6	24	23	21
Halmstad	17	5	6	6	21	21	21
Osters	17	3	9	5	22	24	18
GAIS	17	4	5	8	19	28	17
Sundsvall	17	1	7	9	14	39	10

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	5	5	0	0	14	4	10
Metz	5	4	0	1	12	4	8
Marseille	5	3	2	0	6	2	8
Nantes	5	3	1	1	6	3	7
Le Havre	5	2	3	0	3	1	7
St Etienne	5	3	0	2	8	4	6
Auxerre	5	2	2	1	5	3	6
Lille	5	2	2	1	5	4	6
Lens	5	2	2	1	4	3	6
Caen	5	2	2	1	3	2	6
Paris S.G.	5	0	5	0	3	3	5
Lyon	5	1	2	2	2	3	4
Sochaux	5	1	2	2	5	7	4
Toulouse	5	1	2	2	5	9	4
Cannes	5	1	1	3	4	5	3
Nancy	5	1	1	3	4	9	3
Montpellier	5	1	1	3	3	8	3
Nimes	5	0	3	2	3	8	3
Rennes	5	0	1	4	3	9	1
Toulon	5	0	0	5	1	8	0

SOVIET UNION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	19	10	6	3	38	24	26
Spartak	18	9	6	3	25	18	24
Shakhtyor	20	6	12	2	25	19	24
Kiev	19	8	7	4	26	20	23
Torpedo	19	7	8	4	21	14	22
Minsk	19	7	6	6	22	19	20
Dnepr	19	6	8	5	17	17	20
Chernomorets	18	4	11	3	22	16	19
Pamir	19	4	10	5	17	21	18
Mos. Dynamo	19	7	3	9	25	25	17
Ararat	17	7	3	7	16	17	17
Metallist	19	4	7	8	18	26	15
Lokomotiv	19	5	5	9	16	28	15
Metallurg	19	4	6	9	11	20	14
Pakhtator	18	4	5	9	21	26	13
Spartak VI	19	3	7	9	21	31	13

FINLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuusysi	22	12	8	2	42	20	44
HJK	22	9	7	6	43	30	34
Haka	22	10	4	8	36	24	34
RoPS	22	10	4	8	32	33	34
Ilves	22	8	9	5	34	25	33
Jaro	22	9	6	7	30	25	33
PPT	22	8	7	7	36	26	31
LuPS	22	7	9	6	36	30	30
MP	22	8	6	8	33	29	30
OTP	22	5	8	9	18	30	23
TPS	22	5	8	9	25	40	23
Reipas	22	2	2	18	12	65	8

Action from Legia's Cup-winners' Cup clash with Man Utd.

POLAND FIXTURES

July 28
OLimpia v Slask
Legia v Hutnik
Zaglebie S v LKS
Zawisza v Motor
Ruch v Katowice
Stal SW v S.Mielec
Widzew L v Pegrotour
Wisla v Gornik
Zaglebie L. v Lech

August 4
Slask v Lech
Gornik v Zaglebie L
Pegretour v Wisla
S.Mielec v Widzew L
Katowice v Stal SW
Motor v Ruch
LKS v Zawisza
Hutnik v Zaglebie S.
Olimpia v Legia

August 11
Legia v Slask
Zaglebie S. v Olimpia
Zawisia v Hutnik
Ruch v LKS
Stal SW v Motor
Widzew L v Katowice
Wisla v S. Mielec
Zaglebie L v Pegrotour
Lech v Gornik

August 18
Slask v Gornik
Pegrotour v Lech
S. Mielec v Zaglebie L
Katowice v Wisla
Motor v Widzew L
LKS v Stal SW
Hutnik v Ruch
Olimpia v Zawisza
Legia v Zaglebie S.

August 25
Zaglebie S. v Slask
Zawisza v Legia
Ruch v Olimpia
Stal SW v Hutnik
Widzew L v LKS
Wisla v Motor
Zaglebie L v Katowice
Lech v S. Mielec
Gornik v Pegrotour

August 28
Slask v Pergrotour
S. Mielec v Gornik
Katowice v Lech
Motor v Zaglebie L
LKS v Wisla
Hutnik v Widzew
Olimpia v Stal SW
Legia v Ruch
Zaglebie S v Zawisza

September 1
Zawisza v Slask
Ruch v Zaglebie S
Stal SW v Legia
Widzew v Olimpia
Wisla v Hutnik
Zaglebie L v LKS
Lech v Motor
Gornik v Katowice
Pegrotour v S. Mielec

September 8
Slask v S. Mielec
Katowice v Pegrotour
Motor v Gornik
LKS v Lech
Hutnik v Zaglebie L
Olimpia v Wisla
Legia v Widzew L
Zaglebie S v Stal SW
Zawisza v Ruch

September 15
Ruch v Slask
Stal SW v Zawisza
Widzew L v Zaglebie S
Wisla v Legia
Zaglebie L v Olimpia
Lech v Hutnik
Gornik v LKS
Pegrotour v Motor
S.Mielec v Katowice

September 22
Slask v Katowice
Motor v S. Mielec
LKS v Pegrotour
Hutnik v Gornik
Olimpia v Lech
Legia v Zaglebie L
Zaglebie S v Wisla
Zawisza v Widzew L
Ruch v Stal SW

September 29
Stal SW v Slask
Widzew L v Ruch
Wisla v Zawisza
Zaglebie L v Zaglebie S
Lech v Legia
Gornik v Olimpia
Pegrotour v Hutnik
S. Mielec v LKS
Katowice v Motor

October 6
Slask v Motor
LKS v Katowice
Hutnik v S. Mielec
Olimpia v Pegrotour
Legia v Gornik
Zaglebie S v Lech
Zawisza v Zaglebie L
Ruch v Wisla
Stal SW v Widzew

October 20
Widzew v Slask
Wisla v Stal SW
Zaglebie L v Ruch
Lech v Zawisza
Gornik v Zaglebie S
Pegrotour v Legia
S.Mielec v Olimpia
Katowice v Hutnik
Motor v LKS

October 27
Slask v LKS
Hutnik v Motor
Olimpia v Katowice
Legia v S. Mielec
Zaglebie S v Pegrotour
Zawisza v Gornik
Ruch v Lech
Stal SW v Zaglebie L
Widzew v Wisla

November 3
Wisla v Slask
Zaglebie L v Olimpia
LKS v Hutnik
Lech v Stal SW
S.Mielec v Zaglebie S
Katowice v Legia
Gornik v Ruch
Pegrotour v Zawisza

November 17
Slask v Hutnik
Olimpia v LKS
Legia v Motor
Zaglebie S v Katowice
Zawisza v S.Mielec
Ruch v Pegrotour
Stal SW v Gornik
Widzew v Lech
Wisla v Zaglebie L

November 24
Zaglebie L v Slask
Lech v Wisla
Gornik v Widzew L
Pegrotour v Stal SW
S. Mielec v Ruch
Katowice v Zawisza
Motor v Zaglebie S
LKS v Legia
Hutnik v Olimpia

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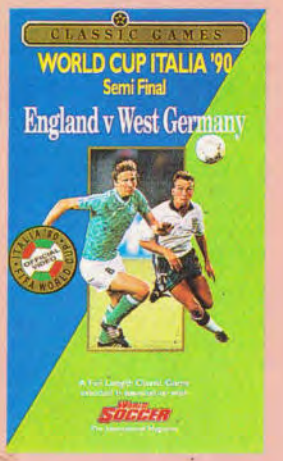

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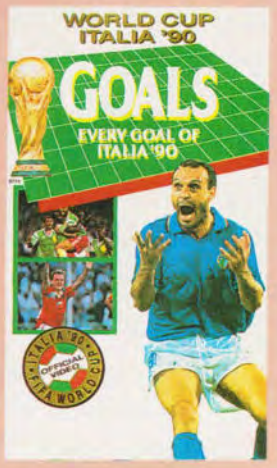

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GOUGH FIT TO CHASE YET ANOTHER TITLE

RICHARD GOUGH watched the celebrations of his triumphant team mates from a hospital bed three months ago, as Rangers clinched the title in that dramatic final showdown with Aberdeen.

Gough the Ibrox captain and Scottish international defender, had been struck down by hepatitis and could only rely on television to savour the success in which he had played such a large part.

Now Gough, 30, has recovered and is fit and well as Rangers embark on the long trek that he hopes will bring the club their fifth championship in six years, while 11 other contestants will be hoping to halt that run of success.

The Scottish football authorities decided, in their wisdom, to amend the structure of the Premier League in mid-season last term, scrapping relegation for the campaign — providing salvation for weak St Mirren and Hibs — and promoting two teams from the First Division to increase the top group to 12.

While this certainly satisfied the ambitions of a host of clubs in Scottish football's middle league, who had been spending huge sums in the pursuit of the solitary promotion place previously on offer in the old one-up one-down arrangement, it upset the upper classes of the Premier somewhat.

They now have to endure 44 games a season to placate the nouveau riche.

Throw in the added matches from the early-season Skol Cup competition, the secondary knockout event in the country culminating with a Hampden final in October, plus European club and international ties, and most of Scotland's top players will be playing every Saturday and midweek until Christmas.

Stamina will be a pre-requisite. The course will be long and only the toughest will survive the full stretch.

Their summer spending spree further increased the strength of their player pool to take on the elongated and demanding season.

The champions have paid £5 million to acquire international goalkeeper Andy Goram from Hibs (£1m), defender David Robertson from Aberdeen (£1m), midfielder Stuart McCall from Everton (£1m) and Soviet midfielder Alexi Mikhailichenko from Sampdoria, whose £2m fee was a Scottish record.

Small wonder that Gough believes Rangers can again prove themselves the best in Scotland.

He explains: "We're equipped to win the championship again and the fact that we've four very good signings can only boost our chance.

"Obviously it will be more difficult, but a 44-game season might suit us even more than our competitors.

"We will have a strong squad competing for all 11 places, and that will be real help in a season where the team may be changed because of injuries, suspensions or even just players being jaded because of the extra games we have to play. It will be a real test."

"We had a lot of injury problems last season, and this is where a larger squad will come in handy."

He also warns that observers should not read too much into the addition of Scottish quality players, part of a long-term policy of improving the side within UEFA guidelines which allow only four non-nationals in any team's line-up in European competition.

Gough believes there will no wholesale clearance from Ibrox.

"People have said we are going to get rid of a lot of English players but that might not be the case. We would be left with egg on our face if we cleared out "foreign" players simply to achieve European ambition and then failed to get past the opening rounds and found ourselves short of quality players, of whatever nationality, for the domestic programme."

But where, amidst all the multi-million pound maelstrom of Ibrox spending, does that leave the rest? Lagging behind.

PHIL GORDON

Koreans are top kids

SOUTH KOREA returned east with the soccer gold medals from Sheffield's World Student games having barely set foot in the steel city.

Ground improvements at Bramall Lane and, later in the competition, Hillsborough, allied to the farming out of matches to the rest of Yorkshire and beyond, gave an unsatisfactory feel to the tournament.

The South Koreans, for instance, qualified from their group in games at Huddersfield Town's Leeds Road and the Stocksbridge Engineering works ground on the northern rim of Sheffield.

Neither were they blessed by fortune for a final switched from Hillsborough to Bradford City's Valley Parade, an hour's drive away.

That lacklustre confrontation with Holland produced no goals until the dreaded penalty shoot-out contrived a 5-4 result.

Sheffield Wednesday's World Cup stadium had been able at least to host the semi-finals, when the Dutch put an end to Great Britain's hopes 1-0, while the Koreans despatched Uruguay 4-1.

Britain's opening shot, a 2-1 victory over Iran, pulled in more than 3,000 fans to Hillsborough; 500 fewer braved a wet Bradford night for the final and third-place play-off, when two goals from Welshman Sion Thomas, once on Everton's books, earned a 2-1 win over Uruguay and bronze medals for his team-mates.

Their challenge had stuttered earlier with a 3-1 group defeat by an accomplished United States team, whose 2-1 victory over Ireland also confirmed their growing status in the game before becoming Uruguay's quarter-final victims.

But Britain, able to field several players with League experience in England and Scotland, went on to trounce the Irish 5-0 with the aid of a hat-trick from York City's Jon McCarthy.

He repeated the feat two days later in a quarter-final thriller against Japan at Scunthorpe, but the 3-3 draw — Mahasi Nagayana replied with his own hat-trick — went to penalties before British nerves held for a 6-5 verdict and a crack at Holland.

PETER FERGUSON

England v Holland in the semi-final

Bingham's gloomy outlook

Bingham . . . hopeful

ATTENDANCES at Northern Ireland international matches over the past four years have decreased dramatically as the team, rebuilt since the World Cup Mexico '86, failed to reach the European Championship finals and look unlikely to qualify for the 1994 World Cup.

"We depend on TV fees and track advertising to subsidise our internationals and meet expenditure for away fixtures," said Irish FA secretary David Bowen.

"Reliance on two sources of income is not a satisfactory position. "Our remaining European matches, against the Faroe Islands, Austria and Denmark, are of academic interest. But they will act as vital preparation for the World Cup."

A total of only 28,000 watched the matches with Yugoslavia, Denmark, Poland the Faroes, and £40,000 had been lost on the fixture with Uruguay a year ago.

The International Committee are to examine all aspects of the managerial set-up. The part-time contract of manager Billy Bingham — 11 years in the post — expires next July, but talks are planned before then.

He has indicated that he would like to see the team through to the World Cup, but if a new appointment is thought necessary, it will have to be made before the start of the qualifying series in September 1992.

A shortage of quality players is the basic cause of the problem And it could be a long time before frustrated fans again experience the glory days of Sweden '58, Spain '82 and Mexico '86.

MALCOLM BRODIE

ARSENAL STAND ALOOF FROM TRANSFER SCRAMBLE

THERE is an assurance about Arsenal that suggests they again will be the team to beat in the coming months.

Two League titles in three seasons ought to breed confidence, and manager George Graham, feeling that his team are even better than they were last spring, was able to stay aloof from the frantic transfer activity among clubs favoured to threaten the Gunners.

Liverpool were at the forefront of the trading. Manager Graeme Souness, who returned to Anfield from Rangers late last season, spent more than £5m on the Derby pair, England defender Mark Wright and Wales striker Dean Saunders.

Souness then went back to Glasgow to sign Mark Walters from his old club for £1.2m. That move inevitably fired speculation that Liverpool were ready to cash in on John Barnes. Not so, insisted Souness. He was more interested in getting the player to sign a new contract.

Walters, like Barnes, is English, an important consideration for the club now they are back in Europe. Souness planned to begin the season with Barnes, Walters and Saunders in attack — Ian Rush was ruled out by an ankle injury.

Snatched

Walters, generally a winger but versatile enough to give Liverpool a number of attacking options, snatched at the opportunity to go to Merseyside. "I'm sure that coming to Liverpool will help my England ambitions", said Walters.

"Rejoining the boss was obviously another factor in my decision to come here. He's a winner."

Liverpool having signed a player named Mark EVERTON Walters, recouped £1m by selling England striker Peter Beardsley to Everton.

Beardsley, now 30, said: "Graeme Souness told me on our pre-season tour of Scandinavia that the clubs had agreed a fee and that I could talk to Howard Kendall.

"There are no sour grapes and no sadness at leaving. I am excited that Everton were prepared to pay a big fee for me. I know I can play and my aim is to win trophies."

Kendall also went back to one of his former clubs, Manchester City, to sign winger Mark Ward for £1m and defender-cum-midfielder Alan Harper for around £200,000.

The deal completes a remarkable 10-year cycle for Ward. As an 18-year-old he was released by Everton and drifted into non-League football with Northwich Victoria.

He was rescued by Oldham, then moved on to West Ham. Kendall took him to City at the end of 1989 and has now given him the chance to achieve his ambition of playing for Everton.

Walters . . . rejoins his old boss

Ward links again with former West Ham striker Tony Cottee, and says: "I'm excited about that. We had a great season together at Upton Park."

City put Everton's money towards the £2.5m they paid Wimbledon for defender Keith Curle. Manager Peter Reid said: "It's a big fee but I'm not at all worried because he is quality."

The fee is an English record for a defender...and Curle is not even an international.

Manchester United joined the £2m summer set, taking England defender Paul Parker from Queen's Park Rangers. They also completed the signing of Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel.

Aston Villa cut into the £5.5m fee received from Bari for David Platt by signing Kevin Richardson from Real Sociedad for £450,000 and Steve Staunton from Liverpool for £1.1m.

DERICK ALLSOP

SMITH SPENDS IN THE SOUNESS STYLE

SCOTTISH football experienced a genuine close season in 1991 for the first time in years.

There was no World Cup tournament, no hostile takeover bids (other than the rather messy affair involving Dundee and Dundee United), and no history-making transfer deals similar to the Mo Johnston saga that provided the major talking point in the summer of 1989.

The 1991 close season gave Scottish football an element of breathing space as it prepared for a much-criticised 44-game Premier League fixture card.

This results from the democratic decision to reconstruct the three domestic divisions. There was a minimal amount of transfer activity taking place, although there was a regular supply of stories concerning possible signings as new Rangers manager Walter Smith tried to build a squad capable of maintaining the level of success achieved under Graeme Souness.

Any doubts as to whether Smith could attract top players to Rangers were quickly dispelled. He signed Soviet midfielder Alexei Mikhailichenko from Italian champions Sampdoria, then persuaded Hibernian goalkeeper Andy Goram and Aberdeen full-back David Robertson to move to Ibrox, along with Everton midfielder Stuart McCall.

Rangers then became involved in protracted negotiations with Marseille, who wanted Trevor Steven for a fee around £5.5m.

The deal nearly fell through because Rangers insisted on guarantees for payment of the instalment-based transfer fee. In the end, Steven was sold to the French champions for £5 million.

Celtic begin what their fans are hoping will be a new era of success under manager Liam Brady, the former Arsenal, Juventus, Sampdoria, Internazionale, Ascoli and West Ham midfielder.

Endeared

Brady's Republic of Ireland connections quickly endeared him to the mainstream Celtic support, whose affection for that country is rarely disguised.

Brady's first signing was Eire international striker Tony Cascarino, his second was Liverpool's giant Scottish international defender Gary Gillespie — both cost £1 million.

But hopes have been severely hampered by an injury to Paul McStay in the pre-season Irish tour. McStay's damaged knee may keep him on the sidelines for several weeks.

The other main challengers, Aberdeen, Dundee United and Hearts, have made few notable excursions into the transfer market, although Hearts paid £350,000 for Middlesbrough striker Ian Baird. He was financed by the sale of international winger John Colquhoun to Millwall.

ALAN FAIRLEY

Four fours fight for final place

THE new season began in Northern Ireland with the Ulster Cup, contested by 16 Irish League sides split into four sections established by final League positions last season.

For example, the first, fifth, ninth and 13th sides form one group, the sections are:

Portadown, Newry, Ards, Larne.

Bangor, Cliftonville, Crusaders, Ballyclare Comrades.

Glentoran, Linfield, Distillery, Carrick Rangers.

Glenavon, Ballymena, Omagh Town, Coleraine.

The top two from each group will contest the quarter-finals before trying their luck in the Gold Cup all before the League season kicks off.

Interest in Europe looks like being yet another brief affair. Portadown face the Champions' Cup holders, Red Star Belgrade, mindful of the thrashing they took from Porto last season.

Bangor may not suffer the same humiliation against Czech outfit Sigma Olomouc, but defeat is probable.

Glenavon hold the best chance of progress, in the Cup-winners' Cup. They face Ilves Tampere of Finland.

BY MARK WEST

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